

STATE FORESTS, DIEBACK

220. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) How much state forest is expected to be affected by dieback in -
  - (a) 5 years;
  - (b) 10 years; and
  - (c) 20 years?
- (2) How much state forest is currently affected by dieback?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) It is currently beyond the resources of the Department of Conservation and Land Management to accurately map the entire state forest for the presence of disease in native vegetation caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. In attempting to predict the future infestation of disease in state forest, the following factors apply: The pathogen moves autonomously and is spread by animal and human vectors. It is estimated that the pathogen will move up slope and across slope at a rate of approximately one metre per year outwards from its current perimeters. It is not currently possible to estimate the rate of spread down slope or when aided by animal or human vectors.
- (2) Since intensive mapping for *P. cinnamomi* disease began in 1976, approximately 535 000 hectares of state forest, CALM-managed reserves and crown land within forest regions have been mapped. This is approximately 20 per cent of the public land managed by CALM in those regions. Of the 535 000 hectares mapped intensively, approximately 106 000 hectares were infested with *P. cinnamomi* (as mapped to December 1999).