

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN — CARBON STOCK MONITORING

291. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the carbon stock monitoring project being carried out by the Department of Environment and Conservation for the area to be covered by the next forest management plan.

- (1) Has the project commenced? If so, can the minister provide details of the terms of reference of the project? If not, when will the project commence?
- (2) Is the minister aware of the report by the Australian National University centre for climate, law and policy “Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement: An assessment of its carbon value”? Does the minister consider that such an assessment would be relevant to native forests in the south west of WA; and, if not, why not? If so, will the minister commission a WA version of the report?
- (3) Will the carbon stock monitoring project or the social and economic impact assessment of the potential impacts of the implementation of the draft FMP 2014-2023 being carried out by DEC undertake an assessment of the economic value of native forest carbon values and the potential economic and regional development opportunities arising from managing our native forests for the protection of their carbon values; and, if not, why not?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. The project involves a broad regional estimate of carbon stocks for the forests in the planned area.
- (2)-(3) At present, there is no national legislative carbon trading mechanism in place and there is still uncertainty on how such a system would operate. The lack of a national framework and a national accounting system for native forest management credits means that the draft forest management plan will not be the vehicle for determining the economic value of forest carbon stocks. Notwithstanding this, the government will investigate opportunities if and when a more certain carbon market emerges?