

**PRESCRIBED BURNING — SOUTH WEST**

*Petition*

**HON DIANE EVERS (South West)** [1.02 pm]: I present a petition containing 213 signatures couched in the following terms —

**To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.**

We the undersigned note that prescribed burning, based on area target instead of strategic assessment, is having detrimental and irreversible effects on threatened species and on the health and resilience of ecosystems. The south-west of Western Australia is of particular concern. It is listed as one of the world's 35 Global Biodiversity Hotspots as it is under severe threat by human activity.

We therefore respectfully request that the Legislative Council recommend that the State Government of Western Australia consider:

- Removing the prescribed burning area target for the Forest Management Plan area of the South West and investigate alternative approaches that cause less detriment to our environment.
- Increasing support for research and monitoring of the ecological impacts and recovery time of prescribed burning and bush fires.
- Encouraging research into cost efficiency and effectiveness of broad-scale prescribed burning, comparing it to selective, risk assessed, strategic mitigation activities close to infrastructure and implement recommendations.
- Supporting research and implementation of fire management technologies, particularly early detection and fast suppression of bush fire ignitions, to mitigate wildfires.
- Ending broad scale prescribed burning in the Conservation Estate, with land management focused on ecological objectives to conserve and protect the unique flora and fauna within these hotspots of biodiversity.
- Protecting long unburnt country and other reference areas in all vegetation types from the impact of fire, to enable the study of fire management, biodiversity, health and long-term viability of flora and fauna.

**And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.**

There are another 3 000 signatures on an online petition, with similar wording.

[See paper 4133.]