

COMMUNITY REGIONAL HERBARIUM VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, FUNDING

304. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Does the State Government support the Community Regional Herbarium Volunteer Program?
  - (2) What has been the level of funding in the past and what is the current level of funding?
  - (3) Will the Government continue to fund the program?
  - (4) If yes, will the Government -
    - (a) increase; or
    - (b) cut current funding; and
    - (c) by how much?
  - (5) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Regional Herbarium project was initiated after it received funding from the Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) in 1997/8. The project was intended to become self-supporting. The cost of specimen identification and processing was to be factored into grant applications by the Regional Herbaria, landcare and other conservation organisations. For various reasons this did not happen. In 2000 the Department of Conservation and Land Management allocated \$49 000 to enable the Project to continue until it received a further grant from the NHT. However the project did not receive further funding from the NHT.
- (2) Past and current levels of funding have been:

Year	NHT	Department
1997/98	\$128 668	\$20 400
1998/99	\$131 885	\$20 400
1999/00	\$132 482	\$20 400
2000/01		\$69 400
2001/02		\$21 500
2002/03		\$36 500
- (3) The project has been scaled down commensurate with available funding and will continue to operate with currently available resources and substantial volunteer input.
- (4) (a)-(c) The level of State Government funding for this project, as with many other projects within the Department of Conservation and Land Management, will be periodically reviewed and assessed against other priority conservation projects.
- (5) Not applicable.