

BUSHLAND CLEARING — EFFECT ON NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

244. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Housing and Works
Given the findings of the joint Perth Biodiversity Project and Birds Australia two year study of native birds on the Swan coastal plain that more than 80 percent of Perth's most prominent native birds face extinction if land clearing continues at current rates —

- (1) What is being done to stop clearing native bushland prior to housing construction to retain as many native trees and plants as possible?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure there is more native bushland left as public open space during developments?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

- (1) The Department undertakes environmental assessments of its land prior to subdivision for housing. The assessments are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Commonwealth and State environmental agencies. Over the past ten years the Department has transferred approximately 360ha of land in the Perth region for the conservation of significant native bushland. At a local level the Department works cooperatively with local authorities to retain native trees as part of the implementation of its land subdivisions.
- (2) The Department assesses the allocation of public open space in its land developments according to the attributes and merits of each site.
- (3) Not applicable.