

ENVIRONMENT — WALPOLE WILDERNESS AREA — FIRE EXCLUSION REFERENCE AREAS

2811. Hon Diane Evers to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Walpole Wilderness Management Plan, and I ask:

- (a) how many established and mapped Fire Exclusion Reference Areas (FERA) have been established;
- (b) what is the fuel age (time since last burn) of these FERA;
- (c) will the Minister please table maps showing FERA since 2008:
 - (i) if no, why not;
- (d) have any changes to the FERA occurred in the last five years:
 - (i) if yes to (d), what is the process for amending FERA;
 - (ii) if yes to (d), what consultation occurred prior to the amendment; and
- (e) have any burns occurred in areas that were previously a FERA;
- (f) will the Minister please table a copy of the Denbarker burn plan?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

- (a) There are seven Fire Exclusion Reference Areas (FERA) currently identified within the Walpole Wilderness.
- (b) Time since last fire for these FERA is as follows:
 - Dixie last burnt in 2015
 - Long last burnt in 1995
 - Murtin last burnt in 2004
 - O'Sullivan last burnt in 2015
 - Sheepwash last burnt in 2011
 - Swarbrick last burnt in 1975
 - Willmott last burnt in 2014
- (c) [See tabled paper no [3738](#).] showing FERA from 2008, and maps from 2012, 2016 and 2020 showing changes in FERA since 2008.
- (d) Yes.
 - (i) Staff across the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) reviewed the FERA to assess their status in relation to the established definition and criteria in the *Prescribed Burn Planning Manual*. The revised list of FERA and supporting boundary definitions was endorsed by DBCA in 2016.
 - (ii) External consultation on FERA is not required.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) [See tabled paper no [3738](#).]