

KARARA CONSERVATION STATION - RARE FLORA

1016. Hon GIZ WATSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to recent mineral - iron ore - exploration on E59/1175 on the banded iron ridge adjacent to the John Forrest lookout on Karara conservation station.

- (1) Has that exploration threatened any declared rare flora?
- (2) What communication occurred between the Department of Industry and Resources and the Department of Environment and Conservation regarding declared rare flora issues on the exploration area near Karara conservation station?
- (3) How is the minister ensuring that the document "Mining Environmental Management Guidelines - Management of Declared Rare Flora for Onshore Petroleum and Mineral Activities" is observed at all times?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank Hon Giz Watson for some notice of this question, to which the Minister for the Environment has provided the following answer -

- (1) A report has recently been referred to the Department of Environment and Conservation of a suspected impact on declared rare flora as a result of this exploration activity. This is being investigated.
- (2) The Department of Industry and Resources referred information relating to a program of works for a drilling program, including on this tenement, to DEC on 26 March 2007, requesting advice. The information referred to the declared rare flora *Eucalyptus synandra* in a desktop assessment, but not confirmed in field survey. On 9 May, DEC provided advice to DOIR in response to the program of works application for this tenement. The advice included a recommendation that further information be provided, although this did not refer specifically to the declared rare flora *Eucalyptus synandra* as it was not recorded from the site. On 7 November 2007, DOIR advised DEC that a complaint had been received that impacts may have occurred on the declared rare flora *Eucalyptus synandra*.
- (3) The document "Mining Environmental Management Guidelines - Management of Declared Rare Flora for Onshore Petroleum and Mineral Activities" is a publication of DOIR. Exploration programs under the Mining Act are formally monitored by DOIR. DEC may undertake targeted or opportunistic monitoring in relation to specific environmental values.