

OLD-GROWTH JARRAH FOREST, LOGGING

260. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the minister's statement of 6 June that the Opposition's revelations that 2 300 hectares of old-growth jarrah forest would be logged in 2000-01 was just a "rehash of information put squarely in the public arena" and could be found on page 23 of the Ferguson report, and ask -

- (a) will the minister advise where on page 23 - or in fact anywhere in the Ferguson report - the area of old-growth jarrah forest to be logged is revealed; and
- (b) does the minister concede that her June 6 statement was incorrect and that Labor's revelation - which was backed up by the Executive Director of CALM - was the first time that the community was made aware that 2 300 hectares of old-growth jarrah forest would be logged in 2000-01?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(b) The report by the Ministerial Advisory Group on Karri and Tingle Management chaired by Professor Ian Ferguson provided recommendations on improving the management of karri and tingle forests in Western Australia's south west. A reading of my media statement of 6 June 2000 shows that the quoted statement clearly referred to karri and karri-tingle old-growth forest, not jarrah old growth.