

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT CONSULTATION PAPER

1327. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the Biodiversity Conservation Act Consultation Paper, which proposes changes to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* currently in place, and ask -

- (a) will the Minister make the unedited version of the respondents' comments on the Consultation Paper accessible, in addition to the edited version, which will be made available by the Department of Conservation and Land Management;
- (b) regarding the identification of 'key threatening processes' and the Minister's subsequent power to 'make orders for the eradication, reduction or containment of environmental weeds and pests' -
 - (i) considering the diversity of Western Australia's regions and their varying environmental factors, will the Minister guarantee that any such decision will be made with thorough consideration of the specific environment in question; and
 - (ii) will the decisions of the Minister override the decisions of the Shire Councils, who may be more familiar with the needs and vulnerability's of their regions than the Minister; and
- (c) will the Minister indicate the extent to which the economic realities faced by farmers will be compromised by the commitment to the protection of biodiversity?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Yes, except where respondents have requested their comments be confidential.
- (b) (i)-(iii) These are matters to be considered in the development of the proposed legislation. I will take into account public input and the practicalities of enforcing any proposed requirements in the development of the legislation.
- (c) The legislation will have its focus of protecting biodiversity in a sustainably managed landscape, taking account of land uses including farming, fishing, mining and tourism.