

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

198. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Is the minister aware of recent reports that farmers will be able to bypass existing requirements relating to the clearing of native vegetation and instead enter into a vegetation management plan with the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (2) Does the minister support this proposal?
- (3) If yes to (2), can the minister provide details about what legislative or regulatory changes would be required before such plans could be put in place?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Environment has provided the following response —

- (1) I am aware of reports in the media relating to farmers working with the Department of Environment and Conservation to explore more effective ways to manage native vegetation on their properties. Cooperation in developing vegetation management plans does not mean that existing legislation would be bypassed.
- (2) I support the department exploring opportunities to more effectively engage with farmers and other landholders regarding the management of native vegetation on their properties.
- (3) There are no proposals for legislative or regulatory changes relating to this matter.