

LAND CLEARING, 304 BADGERUP ROAD, GNANGARA

1878. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 1496 of 7 May 2003 and ask -

- (a) was the Local Government authority, (the City of Wanneroo) contacted for their input regarding the clearing of the bush land;
- (b) if yes, what was the position of the council;
- (c) if not, why not; and
- (d) was the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation made aware that the City of Wanneroo opposed the development application for this site?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

- (a) Yes
- (b) The Council advised that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure recently upheld an appeal against a decision by the City to refuse a development application on the site.
The City also advised that from a biodiversity perspective, it would object to any land clearing without prior detailed flora and vegetation assessment being undertaken by a suitably qualified person.
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) Yes. In addition to the written advice that the City would impose its conditions of approval for a development application, being a flora and vegetation assessment, it subsequently verbally advised the Office of the Commissioner that it had no power to object to the clearing under the Town Planning and Development Act 1928.

The Department of Environment advised the Commissioner that it had no objection to the notified clearing. The Department of Conservation and Land Management advised the Commissioner that 24% of the original extent of the vegetation type remained and that the long term future of the vegetation was insecure given the planning and land use constraints, so some clearing could be considered.

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation had no power to object to clearing on biodiversity conservation grounds, nor did he have strong grounds to refer the proposal for formal assessment by the Environment Protection Authority.