

COCKATOOS - THREAT TO SPECIES FROM LOGGING AND BURNING OF NATIVE FOREST

4766. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

With reference to cockatoos and the logging and burning of our native forest, I ask -

- (1) Are Baudin, Carnaby and Forest red tail cockatoos, including their chicks, killed during or as a consequence of logging and controlled burning in Department of Environment and Conservation controlled forests?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the Department of Environment and Conservation's estimate of numbers killed through logging and controlled burning in 2005 and 2006?
- (3) What percentage of total population for each species does that number represent?
- (4) What is the annual estimated percentage population growth for each species?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) From time to time nestlings of all three cockatoo species have been killed during logging operations and nestlings have also been recovered. Wherever possible recovered nestlings are transferred to experienced wildlife carers for rearing and, where possible, release back to the wild.

No records exist for nestlings being killed as a consequence of prescribed burning. Prescribed burning operations are believed to have little direct impact on nesting of black cockatoos as the flame heights associated with these burns generally do not extend to the same height as nest hollows.
- (2) There are no data available for the mortality rates of Baudin's, Carnaby's or Forest Red-Tail Black cockatoos as a result of logging or prescribed burning.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The annual changes in population size for any of the three species of black cockatoos are unknown. The recovery plans prepared for the three species identify population monitoring among the actions that should be undertaken.