

STATE FORESTS 22 AND 38

Partial Revocation of Dedication - Statement by Parliamentary Secretary

HON SALLY TALBOT (South West - Parliamentary Secretary) [3.36 pm]: My statement concerns the proposed revocation of portions of state forests 22 and 38. The total area proposed to be revoked from these two state forests is about 2.25 hectares.

The first area comprises three small portions of state forest 22, situated about six kilometres south east of Byford. Several years ago, a surveyor discovered that most of the perimeter fences around Cockburn Sound location 871 - a private property enclave surrounded by state forest 22 - were at variance with the surveyed boundaries of the block. This longstanding anomaly has resulted in some portions of state forest 22 effectively being treated as though they are part of location 871 and vice versa. The upshot is that parts of a cottage, carport and shed have been erected in state forest.

Mr H. Smith, the present owner of location 871, and the Department of Environment and Conservation have negotiated a land exchange proposal that, if effected, should tidy up all the irregularities of land use in and around location 871. The areas proposed for exchange have been surveyed and are highlighted in red and yellow on the locality plan provided. Excision of the proposed access road, which is shown in orange on the plan, has already been approved by Parliament.

It is proposed to excise three portions of state forest 22, having a combined area of 6 446 square metres, for inclusion into location 871, and to gain three portions of location 871, with the same total area, as additions to the forest estate by way of exchange. The exchange as proposed will minimise the number of perimeter fences that need to be moved to another alignment and thereby keep fence-line clearing to a minimum. It will also ensure that the following infrastructure is formally located an appropriate distance inside the revised legal boundary of location 871: a cottage and associated carport in the south-east corner, which at present partly encroach into state forest; underground power to the cottage, which currently runs through state forest; and a powered zincalume shed with concrete footings in the north-east portion of location 871, which is partly erected on state forest. Apart from these improvements, the areas proposed for exchange are similar in that they comprise mainly pastured, undulating land with some remnant vegetation and indications of regeneration where grazing has not occurred. The revised boundaries will enable DEC to construct a new firebreak on the western edge of the property, which will assist access for fire protection and suppression activities and facilitate access for weed control along the creek line.

The proposed exchange is considered to be of mutual advantage to both Mr Smith and the state. It will formalise some longstanding encroachments into state forest, minimise clearing for new fence alignments and ensure that there is no overall loss of land from the forest estate. Mr Smith paid for the survey that has already been done. He will be required to meet all other costs incurred during the exchange process. The three areas earmarked for excision from state forest will be released only on condition that they are amalgamated into the title for location 871. The proposed exchange was referred to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, the Forest Products Commission, the Department of Industry and Resources, the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Office of the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation in the then Department of Agriculture and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale for comment. There were no objections from these agencies. Following a site inspection by some of the native title claimants, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council advised that the claimants have no objections.

The second area concerns a request from the Shire of Manjimup to excise an area of about 1.6 hectares next to Quinninup townsite from state forest 38 so that it can become a shire reserve. As shown on the locality plan provided, this small portion of state forest 38 is isolated from other state forest in the vicinity by freehold land to the east, Karri Lane to the north, Wheatley Coast Road to the west and the recently created Greater Dordagup National Park, class A reserve 47663, to the south. The former Quinninup primary school and associated buildings and infrastructure, formerly DEC lease 1762/97, occupy most of the 1.6 hectare site. Following closure of the school in July 2004, this area became the subject of an interim tenancy agreement between the then Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Shire of Manjimup. Under the agreement, the shire gained responsibility for the school principal's residence, two classrooms, the school office, the school library, the caretaker's shed, water tank, oval, hard courts for tennis and basketball, playground equipment and gardens on the former school site. The agreement allows the shire to sublease this area to the Quinninup Community Association. The association is a proactive organisation that has been in existence for over 20 years. It currently uses the former principal's residence as a community centre, providing services such as meeting rooms, postal distribution, arts and crafts and a library. The association plans to relocate some of these activities into other buildings on the site. The balance of the area proposed for excision is the subject of DEC lease 1823/97. That lease, which has an area of about 1 000 square metres, is situated at the junction of Wheatley Coast Road and Karri Lane. Lease 1823/97 is held by the shire and subleased to the Quinninup Bush Fire

Brigade for housing the brigade's fire fighting equipment. Given the level of past development, only a small portion of native vegetation is left on the area. Conservation values are therefore negligible. The area involved falls within the Warren River water reserve.

The proposed excision is supported because it will formalise the existing situation and facilitate future use by the local community. Currently there are over 200 permanent residents within a two to three kilometre radius of Quinninup and, with regular housing development occurring, that number looks set to grow. If the proposed excision goes ahead, it is intended that the area be set aside as a reserve for the purpose of a community centre and recreation. The reserve would be vested in the Shire of Manjimup, with the power to lease. Any costs incurred throughout the process of changing the land tenure from state forest to a reserve are to be met by the Shire of Manjimup. The proposed excision from state forest 38 was referred to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, the Forest Products Commission, the then Department of Environment, the Department of Industry and Resources, the Soil and Land Conservation Commission in the then Department of Agriculture and the WA Planning Commission for comment. There were no objections from these agencies. The only condition imposed related to compliance with the relevant clearing regulations should any further clearing of native vegetation be desired in the future. The shire has confirmed that it will observe this condition. The Land Asset Management Services arm of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has advised that native title has been addressed. The Conservation Commission of Western Australia, the vesting body for state forest, has endorsed both of the proposed revocations.

I recommend this revocation proposal to the house and ask members to support it. I now table the attached maps indicating the proposed excision from state forests.

[See paper 3575.]

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Bruce Donaldson**.