

**PARTIAL REVOCATION OF STATE FOREST NOS 4, 7, 14, 16, 22, 32, 33, 35, 54, 58, 63, AND 65**

*Motion*

**MRS EDWARDES** (Kingsley - Minister for the Environment) [12.10 pm]: I move -

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State Forest Nos 4, 7, 14, 16, 22, 32, 33, 35, 54, 58, 63 and 65 laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on the twenty-first day of November 2000 by command of His Excellency the Governor be carried out.

Members will note that this state forest revocation motion affects 12 state forests. There are 10 distinct proposals with a combined area of about 334 hectares. I shall briefly outline the background to this motion.

From the formation of the Forests Department in 1918 through to its absorption into the Department of Conservation and Land Management in 1985 and beyond, the procedure for taking land out of state forest solely for road purposes has not involved parliamentary approval. Throughout the last century, roads were resumed from state forest as an administrative action under the Public Works Act or Local Government Act. However, the proclamation of the Land Administration Act in 1998 has put a stop to this longstanding practice. An unexpected outcome of the Land Administration Act is that the Department of Land Administration can no longer undertake such administrative actions. Consequently, the approval of both Houses of Parliament is now required to excise a proposed road from state forest.

Most of the 10 proposals in this motion concern roads that have already been constructed. There are many examples of roads having been built in state forest outside the formal survey provided therefor. The reasons for this vary but often the formal survey may not be the most practical alignment. Some of the proposals in this motion relate to the dedication of new roads, others to the realignment or widening of existing roads. Associated with six of the proposals are various planned road closures which will result in a total area of about 139 hectares being added to the Department of Conservation and Land Management estate.

Area 1 involves 32.3584 hectares of state forest No 4 situated approximately one kilometre north of the Shotts town site. This area contains an already constructed realignment of Coalfields Road. The realignment was required to improve vehicular access to the Premier mine site. The survey in question is about three times wider than normal. This is to cater for relocation of the Muja railway after mining is completed around 2015. In conjunction with this proposal, several roads, about 14 hectares in total, are to be closed and added to state forest No 4.

Area 2 concerns 3.2630 hectares of state forest No 7 between Mundaring and Sawyers Valley. This area has been requested by Main Roads WA to formally widen Great Eastern Highway. In the interests of public safety, the road widening has already occurred.

Area 3 relates to about 0.25 hectares of state forest No 14 situated approximately six kilometres south east of Dwellingup. This proposal will formalise existing access to lots 1 and 3 of Murray locations 163 and 612. Although lots 1 and 3 have direct frontage onto the Pinjarra-Williams Road, it is not practical to use that frontage because of safety concerns and topographical problems. The main safety concern is poor visibility associated with a curve in the Pinjarra-Williams Road at this point.

Area 4 involves 12.3286 hectares of state forest No 16 situated approximately 21 kilometres south west of Waroona. Most of this area is required by Main Roads WA to cater for a dual carriageway along the eastern side of a 6.5 kilometre section of the Perth-Bunbury Highway, also known as the Old Coast Road. The balance of the area is required to realign the western end of Johnston Road to provide a safer intersection with the highway. Clearing is to be kept to a minimum and Main Roads WA has made arrangements to protect two populations of rare flora - Tuart rufous greenhood orchid - within the project area. To offset the loss of this area, a 16-hectare strip of uncleared road reserve on the western side of the highway is to be closed and added to the adjoining Yalgorup National Park.

Area 5 is 1.8232 hectares of state forest No 22 situated approximately 8.5 kilometres north of Jarrahdale. Excision of this area will enable the present access to Cockburn Sound location 871 to become a dedicated road under the control of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Location 871 is surrounded by state forest and has never had legal access.

Area 6 relates to portions of state forests Nos 32, 33, 35, 58 and 63 in the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Busselton and Nannup. The total area proposed to be excised from these state forests is 266.7740 hectares. Essentially, the proposal is to realign or dedicate portions of Brockman Highway, Stewart, Sues and Jalbarragup Roads. The proposal does not involve further road widening. It is simply an attempt to regularise the situation already existing on the ground. All these roads are well established, arterial roads. The section of Brockman Highway already has a 40-metre-wide road reserve but the actual formed road meanders in and out of this

reserve. The present proposal will redefine the road reserve so that it coincides with the road as constructed. The new road reserve will be generally 30 metres wide. Jalbarragup Road needs to be similarly realigned. By contrast, Stewart and Sues Roads are largely unsurveyed and the present proposal will rectify this anomaly. Both are major connecting roads. Sues Road was constructed on its current alignment for the Beenup mining project. I understand that it is one of the best roads in the State. Main Roads WA has prepared detailed survey plans which show the location of the road centre lines in each case and the existing tree line along the edge of the cleared areas adjacent to the constructed roads. These plans have been designed to generally separate the cleared road formations from the adjacent forest areas, thus making it clear to both Mains Roads WA and Department of Conservation and Land Management personnel where their respective responsibilities begin and end. Clearing is not an issue because the roads as now surveyed are restricted to the existing cleared formations. Contingent upon this proposal, several portions of superfluous roads, totalling 60.8329 hectares, are to be closed and added to the adjoining state forests.

Area 7 is 3.3203 hectares of state forest No 54 situated approximately 6.5 kilometres north east of Kalamunda. This proposal will formalise the present access to Canning location 619. To compensate for the loss of this area, the Shire of Kalamunda has agreed that two unmade roads in the same locality can be added to state forest No 54. These roads have a combined area of about 7 hectares.

Area 8 is 1.7270 hectares of state forest No 65 situated approximately 14 kilometres north of Wanneroo. This proposal is to accommodate a realignment of the survey for Perry Road, Pinjar so that the new survey coincides with the road as constructed. An area comprising 7 113 square metres of unmade road that is to be closed by deviation will be added to State Forest No 65.

Area 9 comprises four small portions of State Forest No 65 situated approximately 14.5 kilometres north of Wanneroo. These areas, which altogether total 4 077 square metres, are required by the City of Wanneroo to formally cater for several sections of the Old Yanchep Road that have been widened to improve its safety.

Area 10 is an area of 11.2896 hectares situated approximately 13 kilometres east of Seabird town site. This proposal will provide dedicated access to Swan locations 1238, 1863, 2530 and 2750. It will rectify an anachronism whereby these properties have had no formal access. There is an existing firebreak on the chosen alignment. Dedication of the road as proposed will result in some banksia woodland being removed to widen the present firebreak. Once upgraded, the road will be a much better fire access route than it is at the moment. By way of compensation, two unmade roads, with a total area of about 40 hectares, are proposed for inclusion into the Moore River National Park.

The proposed revocation of these 10 areas has the support of the Lands and Forest Commission, the Department of Land Administration and the local authority in each case. I commend the motion to the House and ask members to support it.

Debate adjourned, on motion of Dr Edwards.

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