

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT — REGULATIONS

759. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to comments made on page 681 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, regarding the 17 staff temporarily assigned to support the development of subsidiary legislation to implement the Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2020.

- (1) Has this work been completed; and, if not, what tasks remain outstanding, and by when will those tasks be completed?
- (2) To where will these temporary staff move once they complete this work, if they have not already done so?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Environment.

- (1)–(2) Additional temporary staff are being recruited to support the implementation of the amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and the development of Environment Online. The amendments to the EP act are commencing in phases, with part IV, “Environmental impact assessment”, and part V, division 2, “Clearing of native vegetation”, scheduled to start later in 2021. Environment Online is also being implemented in a staged way, with the first stage scheduled for early 2022. The additional temporary staff will be employed on fixed-term contracts for up to three years.