

CALM, REPORT ON INDICATIVE LOGGING PLANS

58. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the public comment sought on CALM's indicative logging plans for 2001-2003 earlier this year and ask -

- (a) have the independent consultants completed their report on those submissions;
- (b) if yes, when will their report be released to the public;
- (c) if not, when will the report be completed and published; and
- (d) how many submissions were received?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (a)-(d) In July 1999 the Government announced an accelerated program to restructure the forest industry. Part of the process included the appointment of an independent Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) chaired by Professor Ian Ferguson to report on karri and tingle management. The group was appointed as a reflection of the Government's commitment to ecologically sustainable forest management as part of the accelerated changes following the signing of the Regional Forest Agreement. The Government is working on implementation of the key recommendations of the MAG report, one of which provides for greater public participation and community involvement in decisions made about forests.

When the MAG report was released in December 1999, some indicative harvesting plans for the Central and Southern Forest Region were released for public comment. The focus of this process was for people to comment on the annual harvesting plans. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) engaged consultants, Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd, to prepare a summary and analysis of public submissions. Thirty-four submissions were received by the consultants. This analysis was released on 18 August 2000 and is available from CALM's internet site Naturebase at www.naturebase.net.