

WOYLIE CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECT

383. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the critically important woylie conservation research project that is being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Can the minister confirm that the woylie conservation research project will be secure and not discontinued in light of the government's three per cent efficiency dividend drive?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The three-year woylie conservation research project was initiated in 2006. The Department of Environment and Conservation's scientific research program has not been identified as a target area for delivery of the efficiency dividend, other than for identified administrative efficiencies. The DEC is currently exploring options for further woylie recovery actions, including necessary research. I am also writing to the commonwealth Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts seeking his support in this regard.