

FRIENDS OF THE PORONGURUP RANGE INC, GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO PURCHASE
FARMING PROPERTY

420. Mr M.G. House to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a proposal by the Friends of the Porongurup Range Inc to purchase a farming property with high conservation values, (part) Plantagenet Loc 6889, Knights Road, for the purpose of a Community Conservation Reserve?
- (2) Will the Government assist Friends of the Porongurup Range Inc to purchase this land for conservation?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What other assistance will the Government provide Friends of the Porongurup Range Inc to achieve its objective to secure this parcel of private land for conservation purposes?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

1. Yes
2. No
3. The Government does not provide funds for land purchases for private management for conservation, as State funds for conservation land acquisition are directed to the State's formal conservation reserve system of national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks. The Government is aware that Commonwealth funds are available for such private purchases from the Natural Heritage Trust.
4. The Government has already assisted the Friends of the Porongurup Range Inc through advice on conservation values, and will continue to do so as required. The Friends group would be able to access schemes of advice and support such as Land for Wildlife and conservation covenanting.