

T/P
20/10

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 12 October 2022

C1019. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the Conservation and Parks Commission “End of term performance review of the Forest Management Plan, 2014 to 2023, and the statement on Page 67 that “Consideration will be given to re-establishing plantation areas, within areas of State Forest, that are currently fallow”, and I ask:

1. What is the total area of state forest that is currently deemed fallow?
2. How long has each area that has been deemed fallow been so categorised?
3. What is the rationale for letting each identified area of state forest lie fallow, in light of the critical shortage of pine for house construction in WA? And
4. Why is the Conservation and Parks Commission undertaking to ‘consider’ re-establishing these plantations, rather than immediately getting on with it?

Answer

1. The total area of State forest and timber reserves that are currently deemed fallow is 19,030 hectares, which includes 17,140 hectares on the Gnangara mound (Pinjar, Gnangara and Yanchep plantations) that are no longer available for pine plantation.
2. ^{1 TABLE} See tabled paper #
- 3.-4. A large portion of the fallow area is on the Gnangara mound where the priority land management objective is groundwater recharge. The Forest Products Commission has advised it is standard practice in other areas to re-establish plantations within 12 months in most cases.

Fallow plantations on State forest and timber reserve by year of clearing

Year cleared	State forest	Timber reserve	State forest (Gnangara mound)	Total
Pre-2005	380	60	3,060	3,500
2005	-	-	30	30
2006	-	-	630	630
2007	30	-	620	650
2008	-	-	800	800
2009	-	-	1,470	1,470
2010	-	-	570	570
2011	10	-	790	800
2012	-	-	710	710
2013	30	-	1,060	1,090
2014	10	-	1,340	1,350
2015	-	-	1,860	1,860
2016	420	-	230	650
2017	40	-	1,140	1,180
2018	50	-	300	350
2019	50	-	300	350
2020	40	-	940	980
2021	570	-	900	1,470
2022	200	-	390	590
Total	1,830	60	17,140	19,030