

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

1763. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) How many Environmentally Sensitive Areas are declared under Section 51B of the Environmental Protection Act 1986?
- (2) How many Environmentally Sensitive Areas are declared under Section 51B of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 by Ministers under the Gallop and Carpenter Governments?
- (3) Does the Minister or his Department have a list of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas as described in (1)?
  - (a) if so, where are copies held;
  - (b) who has access to these copies; and
  - (c) will the Minister make a copy available to the Member for Capel?
- (4) Are copies of maps of Environmentally Sensitive Areas as listed in (1) in existence?
  - (a) if so, who has access to them?
- (5) Will the Minister make such maps available to the Member for Capel?
- (6) Have all landholders with declared Environmentally Sensitive Areas on their properties been notified of this declaration?
  - (a) if so, how?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) Under section 51B of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the Minister may declare by notice either a specified area of the State or a class of areas of the State to be an environmentally sensitive area. There are currently ten classes of areas declared to be environmentally sensitive areas under the Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas Notice) 2005.
- (2) The clearing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 commenced on 8 July 2004 and only one notice of Environmentally Sensitive Areas has been made since its commencement (see answer to question 3, below).
- (3) Yes.
  - (a) The list was published in the Government Gazette Number 55 (special) on 8 April 2005.
  - (b) It is available on the State Law Publisher's website.
  - (c) A copy is tabled with this response. [See paper 2513.]
- (4&4a) A web-based GIS viewer is publicly available on the Department of Environment and Conservation's website which allows landholders to view environmentally sensitive areas by property location, street address or mining tenement.
- (5) The website address is <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au> and follow the links to "Department of Environment", then "Tools, Systems, Data" and finally "Native Vegetation Map Viewer".
- (6&6a) No. All declared areas have been identified in published sources. Landholders have been notified directly in specific circumstances, for example where declared rare flora and threatened ecological communities are involved. In addition, the following organisations were consulted before the section 51B notice was gazetted: AlintaGas; Association of Mineral and Exploration Companies, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, Chamber of Minerals and Energy, Conservation Council of WA, Department of Industry and Resources, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Environmental Defenders Office, Environmental Protection Authority, Main Roads WA, Pastoralists and Graziers Association, Public Transport Authority, Roadside Conservation Committee, WA Farmers Federation, WA Local Government Association and the Water Corporation.