

TUART FORESTS — WESTERN GREY KANGAROOS

3300. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the Minninup and Peppermint Beach Tuart Forest and I ask:

- (a) approximately how many Western Grey Kangaroos are resident within the Minninup and Peppermint Beach Tuart Forests;
- (b) how many Western Grey Kangaroos were culled within this area during 2007;
- (c) as indicated by the DEC, when will the building of small enclosures around good remnant areas within these forests commence; and
- (d) how much has been budgeted for the building of these small enclosures?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) The areas of Tuart forest at Minninup and near Peppermint Beach are components of the 3 000 hectare Tuart Forest National Park. Although Kangaroo populations are not monitored in this particular area densities in forested areas along the coastal plain have, however, been estimated to be of the order of just under one Kangaroo per hectare. Local factors such as access to improved pasture can result in local kangaroo densities reaching much higher figures.
- (b) No licensed culling of Western Grey Kangaroos within the Tuart Forest National Park was undertaken during 2007. Based on the returns submitted by professional licensed kangaroo shooters working in surrounding areas, 7 201 kangaroos were shot for commercial purposes during 2007, however this figure is for a considerably more extensive area than the immediate area surrounding the Tuart Forest National Park.
- (c) The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) plans to fence several small plots in winter 2008 to monitor regrowth of native vegetation and weeds in various habitat types when grazing is excluded.
- (d) There is no discrete budget for the fencing work. DEC will absorb the costs of construction and ongoing monitoring within its general operating budget.