

LAND CLEARING, POLICY AND GUIDELINES

**192. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture:**

Following on from the question I asked yesterday about funding land clearing, I ask -

- (1) What is the Government's policy on land clearing?
- (2) Will the minister make available the policy and the guidelines?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

- (1) The Government's policy on land clearing for agriculture, which is the only aspect of the policy that I can directly answer, is expressed in a document labelled "Land Care and the Environment", which I am happy to make available, and it is also expressed to some extent in the primary industry policy document. Essentially, the policy is that the Soil and Land Conservation Act will remain the primary legislative tool to govern land clearing for agricultural purposes. I make that distinction for all members, because land clearing for agricultural purposes - at least, legal land clearing - now forms a very small component of total land clearing, most of which is for urban, industrial and utility corridor development, but it is essentially supportive of the principles of the Soil and Land Conservation Act, including the retention of the requirement for the commissioner to notify a proponent within 90 days of application received under regulation 4 of the 1992 regulations.
- (2) I will make those available to the member.