

VITICULTURE, LAND CLEARING REQUIREMENTS

303. Hon GIZ WATSON to the minister representing the Minister for Primary Industry:

I understand that over the past five or so years there has been a requirement that all proposals to clear over one hectare of native vegetation for viticulture development must be referred by Agriculture Western Australia's regional office to the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation for determination. In respect of the Margaret River wine province -

- (1) Have all proposals over the past four years to clear for viticulture purposes in this area been referred to the soil commissioner for determination?
- (2) If yes, how many hectares of native vegetation have been cleared and how many proposals were involved?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Proposals should normally be notified to the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation by the landowner, rather than referred by the regional office. All such notices of intent received by Agriculture Western Australia have been considered by the commissioner.
- (2)-(3) Since October 1996, the commissioner did not object to the clearing of 62.5 hectares of native vegetation within the Margaret River wine province, following assessment of six notices of intent that stated the land use of viticulture.