

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — PRESCRIBED BURNS

**5. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:**

I take this opportunity also to congratulate the Leader of the House, and also the parliamentary secretaries' new appointments.

I refer to the Department of Parks and Wildlife's vitally important prescribed burning program in the south west forests.

- (1) Can the minister advise the progress of the season's prescribed burning program in the south west?
- (2) Can the minister advise what factors contributed to the extent of the burns?
- (3) Can the minister advise the total area of prescribed burning predicted for this year?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Parks and Wildlife —

- (1) The McGowan Labor government supports prescribed burning as a key management tool. From 1 July 2016, the Department of Parks and Wildlife's prescribed burning program in the south west has treated over 220 000 hectares.
- (2) Favourable burning conditions in spring 2016, along with additional resources, were the main contributing factors.
- (3) It is difficult to predict, given the impact weather has on the program; however, the Department of Parks and Wildlife expects to build on this total before a cold front is forecast to pass through parts of the south west with moderate to heavy rainfall from late Sunday to Monday.

**The PRESIDENT:** I know there might have been some discussion about the number of questions but I see one more member who wants to ask a question.