

EUROPEAN HOUSE BORER — GNANGARA PINE PLANTATION

4293. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Forestry

- (1) Will the Forest Products Commission (FPC) create a buffer zone around the Gngarra Pine Plantation in order to protect nearby housing estates and developments from the European House Borer (EHB); and
  - (a) if not, why not?
- (2) Without a buffer zone around the plantation will the FPC be responsible for the management of the EHB; and
  - (a) if not, who will be responsible for the EHB in Ellenbrook and the numerous estates and developments around Gngarra?
- (3) Has the EHB program gone from an eradication program to a containment program; and
  - (i) if the program has been downgraded to containment, what was the basis of this decision?
- (4) If any residents are affected by any EHB infestation as a result of any changes to Government policy, will they be entitled to compensation?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

- (1) The Forest Products Commission (FPC) is progressively carrying out a one off harvest of the Gngarra Pine Plantation. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have raised with FPC the possibility of retaining rather than harvesting some pine trees as part of DEC's concept planning for the area once commercial harvesting has finished. No decision has been made either way on retaining pine trees.
  - (a) Not applicable
- (2)
  - (a) The responsibility for the management and control of EHB is with the Department of Agriculture and Food. FPC is responsible for managing timber harvesting on State Forests. The Department of Environment and Conservation is the land manager.
- (3) There has been a decision to discontinue national funding of EHB eradication in Western Australia. The Government of Western Australia has yet to complete its own assessment of the most appropriate course of action in response to the national funding decision.
  - (i) The national funding decision was informed by advice received from the EHB Scientific Advisory Panel to the effect that eradication of EHB was no longer feasible.
- (4) There is no program for compensation for EHB damage.