

CLEARING PERMITS — ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

1260. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

On 21 August this year during the minister's contribution to the debate that followed my motion on private property proprietorship, which called on the government to repeal regulation 6 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 dealing with environmentally sensitive areas, she said —

A total of 924 clearing permits have been granted within environmentally sensitive areas since the clearing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act commenced on 8 July 2004.

Of the 924 clearing permits granted —

- (1) What was the nature of the clearing for which a permit was applied?
- (2) How many of the permits granted were to private landowners?
- (3) How many of the permits granted were to government entities?
- (4) Why are property owners forced to apply for permits to undertake low-impact agricultural management activities in an environmentally sensitive area?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The nature of clearing includes agriculture, infrastructure, mining and miscellaneous activities.
- (2) There were 730.
- (3) There were 194.
- (4) The intent of listing areas or classes as environmentally sensitive areas is to ensure that clearing that is allowed by exemption in regulations cannot be undertaken without consideration of potentially degrading areas of special environmental sensitivity or value through a permit application.