

LAND CLEARING, COMPENSATION

169. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture:

Does the Government intend to compensate landowners who are refused permission to clear land?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The Government is presently reviewing its options on the whole question of land clearing for agricultural purposes. This matter has been obscured to some extent by the existence of the memorandum of understanding on land clearing. Compensation is just one of the equity matters that arises from the broader issue of property rights, and the Government will be discussing this matter with the Commonwealth in the intergovernmental agreement and bilateral stages of the agreement on the national action plan on salinity and water quality. I am also keen for the Public Administration and Finance Committee to consider the continuation of the former Public Administration Committee's inquiry into land clearing issues.