

WELLINGTON DISCOVERY FOREST, LOGGING AND STUDIES

1417. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) Will the Wellington Discovery Forest be incorporated into the boundaries of the Wellington National Park?
- (2) Will the Wellington Discovery Forest be logged in the future?
- (3) What studies are being conducted within the Wellington Discovery Forest?
- (4) How many students visited the Wellington Discovery Forest in the last two years?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The boundaries of the proposed Wellington National Park are yet to be finalised. Public comments received as part of recent community consultation undertaken on boundaries for the park included representation for the Wellington Discovery Forest area to remain as State forest and representation for the area to be within the national park. The Wellington National Park Community Advisory Committee discussed these comments at their April meeting and will further consider the issue at their next meeting before making a recommendation.
- (2) The Wellington Discovery Forest aims to raise community awareness of the conservation values and management of multiple use jarrah forest. Flora, fauna, fire, recreation, silviculture and logging are all components of sustainable, multiple use forest management.  
  
Logging however, is not permitted in national parks. Therefore, if the Discovery Forest is included in the Wellington National Park silviculture or logging demonstrations will not be permitted in the area. However, should the Discovery Forest remain State forest, small areas may be harvested with the aim of demonstrating current silvicultural and logging practice.
- (3) There are no research studies being conducted in the Wellington Discovery Forest. There is a successful education program being run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The program focuses on promoting an awareness of and involvement in biodiversity conservation. It includes professional development opportunities for teachers and student teachers of all school years as well as providing a destination for excursion activities for students from early childhood to Year 12, all of which have been developed to fulfil curriculum outcomes mostly in science, society and environment learning areas.
- (4) Since its inception in August 2001, 4,688 students and teachers have visited the Discovery Forest to participate in the education programs.