

CLEARING APPLICATIONS — SHIRE OF AUGUSTA–MARGARET RIVER

1348. Hon Dr Steve Thomas to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

For the calendar years 2022 and 2023 to date, I ask for the area within the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River local government area:

- (a) how many applications were received by the Environmental Protection Authority for clearing;
- (b) will the Minister please provide a list of those applications;
- (c) which of those applications were approved; and
- (d) which of those applications were rejected and why were they rejected?

Hon Darren West replied:

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), not the Environmental Protection Authority, is responsible for administering the native vegetation clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*.

The information below is presented separately for each calendar year.

2022

- (a) DWER received seven applications in 2022 for a clearing permit under Part V of the EP Act within Shire of Augusta–Margaret River. In addition, two referral applications were received by DWER for a determination on whether a clearing permit was required under section 51DA of the EP Act:
- (b) Application references and applicant names are:
 - (1) CPS 9700/1 – Balwyn Margaret River Pty Ltd
 - (2) CPS 9237/2 – Shire of August–Margaret River
 - (3) CPS 9879/1 – Nutan Pty Ltd
 - (4) CPS 8929/2 – Shire of August–Margaret River
 - (5) CPS 9675/1 – Todd Exell
 - (6) CPS 9777/1 – Brian Terry Keel Hutchings
 - (7) CPS 9857/1 – Shire of August–Margaret River
 - (8) REF 9626/1 – Luke Rusconi
 - (9) REF 9628/1 – Todd Exell
- (c) Approved applications are: CPS 9700/1, CPS 9237/2, CPS 9879/1, CPS 8929/2 and CPS 9675/1. CPS 9777/1 and CPS 9857/1 are currently under assessment.
- (d) None of the applications were refused. It was determined that REF 9628/1 did not satisfy the referral criteria, which resulted in clearing permit application CPS 9675/1 being made. REF 9626/1 was withdrawn by the applicant.

2023

- (a) To date, DWER has received four applications in 2023 for a clearing permit under Part V of the EP Act within Shire of Augusta–Margaret River. In addition, one referral application has been received by DWER for a determination on whether a clearing permit was required under section 51DA of the EP Act:
- (b) Application references and applicant names are:
 - (1) CPS 10083/1 – Paul Saunders
 - (2) CPS 10112/1 – Wylco Developments Pty Ltd
 - (3) CPS 10118/1 – Shire of August–Margaret River
 - (4) CPS 10136/1 – Blue Whale Farm Plantation Pty Ltd
 - (5) REF 10093/1 – Burnside Estate
- (c) None of the above applications have yet been approved. CPS 10118/1 and CPS 10136/1 are currently under assessment. REF 10093/1 was assessed as meeting the referral criteria, on which basis a permit was not required.

- (d) None of the applications have been refused. CPS 10083/1 was withdrawn by the applicant. CPS 10112/1 was declined and not accepted for assessment as it was not a valid application in accordance with section 51E of the EP Act.