

OIL MALLEE SEED, PLANTING

136. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

In response to question without notice 73 of 9 March 2004 the minister said that the Department of Conservation and Land Management was seeking information on the amount of high oil content mallee seed that had been or would be planted from the 13.5 million seeds provided by CALM in Western Australia.

- (1) Will the minister now inform the House of the amount of those seeds that has been or will be planted in Western Australia this season?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) What steps does CALM take to ensure that the oil mallee seed it provides is planted in this State in a timely manner?
- (4) Is the Minister for the Environment concerned that many of the seeds provided to the Oil Mallee Association of WA may not be planted in Western Australia this season?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) Of the 13.5 million seeds available from the Department of Conservation and Land Management for planting as seedlings in nurseries, some 12 million seeds were sold to the Oil Mallee Association of WA. Other seeds were offered for sale but were not purchased. CALM was recently advised by the OMA that about five million of the OMA's seeds were distributed to nurseries. CALM is not aware of the number of seeds that will be planted or the number of residual seeds, if any, that will be planted.
- (3) CALM has not had reason in the past to assume that oil mallee seed purchased from the department was not intended to be planted.
- (4) This matter is one component of an active investigation by CALM. The minister will be advised of the outcome of that investigation when this and a range of related matters that were raised by an external complainant have been fully and properly examined. CALM is also reviewing its seed sales arrangements to ensure that appropriate seed supply to local growers occurs in future years.