

ENVIRONMENT — ECOLOGICAL THINNING

551. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' explanatory note on ecological thinning that focuses on ecological thinning at the stand or patch scale as opposed to landscape scale.

- (1) What is the scientific basis for the department's decision to limit ecological thinning to the stand or patch scale when it is well documented that to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes, ecological thinning should occur at the landscape scale?
- (2) Did the minister or the government direct or suggest to the department that ecological thinning should be restricted to the stand or patch scale?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Environment.

- (1) The explanatory note recognises the significant variation in forest structure, composition and condition across landscapes, and that the on-ground application of ecological thinning will need to vary at the patch or stand scale to reflect this diversity.
- (2) No.