

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS Inquiry into the Sandalwood Industry in Western Australia

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs tabled its 29th report in the Legislative Council today. Given that the current Parliament will be ending imminently, the Committee will not have the opportunity to conclude its inquiry. Therefore, the report is of an interim nature, providing a 'status update' and setting out the issues which have arisen so far.

One issue which has quickly emerged is that of the inadequate maximum penalties prescribed by the governing Acts for the illegal harvesting of wild sandalwood, which is a highly valuable resource. The Committee recommends that:

the Government, as a matter of urgency, review the legislation governing the sandalwood industry, with a view to increasing the maximum penalties prescribed for the illegal harvesting of wild sandalwood.

The Committee recognises that there is a great deal of public interest in this inquiry. In order to give the subject matter the consideration and attention it deserves, the Committee recommends to the Legislative Council that the Committee, or another appropriate committee, proceed with the inquiry during the 39th Parliament. The recommendation also suggests which areas of inquiry should be pursued in the next Parliament.

A copy of the interim report can be obtained from the Committee Clerk (details below) or viewed on the Parliament's website (www.parliament.wa.gov.au).

For media inquiries, contact the Chair of the Committee, Hon Brian Ellis MLC, on 9222 7890 (Parliament House), 9923 9211 (Electorate Office) or 0429 082 332 (Mobile).

Other inquiries should be addressed to Mr Mark Warner, Committee Clerk, on 9222 7410 or mwarner@parliament.wa.gov.au.