

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 527

asked on Wednesday 21 April 2005

MR SEENEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to his joint media release with the Premier of 22 January 2003 in which he stated: "We are alarmed that satellite imagery indicates 2,150 instances of suspected illegal clearing during 1999-01, covering 61,000 hectares."—

- (1) How many of these 2,150 instances of suspected illegal clearing have been investigated?
- (2) How many of these instances were prosecuted and what area in hectares did they cover?
- (3) How many of these instances is the department currently prosecuting and what area in hectares did they cover?
- (4) How many instances were deemed to be legal or no further action taken and what area in hectares did they cover?

ANSWER:

- (1) Approximately 680 notifications of suspected illegal clearing relating to the 1999-2001 SLATS data were investigated.
- (2) Of the 680 investigated notifications, the Department prosecuted 19 instances of alleged illegal vegetation clearing, covering an area of approximately 8640 hectares. There were 29 investigations that resulted in enforcement action other than a prosecution.
- (3) Three (3) instances of suspected illegal clearing from the 1999-2001 SLATS data, are currently before the courts. These investigations cover an area of 2701 hectares.
- (4) 629 investigations resulted in no enforcement action.