

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 451

asked on Wednesday, 1 August 2012

MR BENNETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to vegetation management legislation and the current backlog of PMAV applications—

Has the Minister considered utilising the services and skills of the Queensland Herbarium in carrying out assessments?

ANSWER:

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines acknowledges there have been some delays in completing applications for Property Maps of Assessable Vegetation (PMAVs).

PMAVs are focused at the property scale and display location, boundary, and status of native vegetation. They are designed to give the landholder long-term certainty in how native vegetation on their property can be managed.

The Queensland Herbarium focuses on undertaking regional ecosystem mapping at the regional or catchment scale. This mapping is a key data set used by the state and local governments, natural resource management groups, the mining sector and others, for planning purposes.

PMAVs come in two categories—lock-it-in and detailed. As the name suggests, in “lock-it-in” cases, the landholder does not dispute the existing mapping and seeks only to lock-in areas that do not contain assessable vegetation so they can in future clear those areas without a permit. The department’s average processing days for lock-it-in PMAVs lodged in 2011 was 12.33 days. In “detailed” applications, the applicant is seeking a PMAV that shows greater detail at a property scale. These PMAVs can be used to correct the regional mapping if required. Unlike lock-it-in cases, by their nature detailed PMAVs frequently require in-depth investigation, negotiation and the submission of extra supporting evidence before agreement can be reached between the department and the applicant.

Staff continue to work to reduce the backlog, and almost 40 per cent of the applications currently with the department are undergoing assessment or are the subject of an offer or negotiations with the applicant.

The department is investigating the viability of a number of initiatives to reduce the backlog of PMAV applications in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

The department has reduced the total number of PMAV applications outstanding by 8.4 per cent since 30 June 2012.