

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 714

asked on Thursday, 27 May 2021

DR M ROBINSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to land clearing in the vicinity of Samarinda Drive and Samarinda Way at Point Lookout—

Will the Minister advise the approval processes undertaken for these works and what action will be taken to restore the area?

ANSWER:

The Department of Resources has recently received several complaints regarding vegetation clearing in the vicinity of Samarinda Drive and Samarinda Way at Point Lookout. The property is a reserve held in trust by the Redland City Council.

The eastern boundary of the property is identified within the Redland City Plan Temporary Local Planning Instrument as an asset protection buffer. Asset protection buffers are defined as providing protection to address the bushfire hazards of development. Therefore, clearing of native vegetation can reasonably be expected within this area.

Through a review of satellite imagery, officers of the department detected a very minor canopy cover change on the property of approximately 0.15 hectares. The area where the canopy change occurred is mapped as 'category X' non-remnant vegetation on the Regulated Vegetation Management Map.

Clearing of 'category X' vegetation on trust land is exempt from requiring a development approval or other authorisation under Schedule 21 of the Planning Regulation 2017, provided the clearing is authorised by the trustee.

Departmental officers contacted the council as the trustee for the reserve and were advised that the council was aware of the matter and that an investigation was being considered. The department will assist the council as required but will not take any further action at this time.

The department is of the belief that this is an appropriate response to the matter given:

- the relatively minor nature of the clearing;
- the category of the vegetation;
- that the vegetation could potentially be cleared for asset protection; and
- that the council, as trustee, can authorise clearing within the reserve.