

At the hearing, the following matters were taken on notice:

1. The use of 1080 poisons and stopping the program during bushfire recovery as noted on page 7 of the transcript
2. Recommendation of an audit programme for Parks Victoria or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in our state forests as noted on page 8 of the transcript
3. The economic issues behind continued expansion of cities into the countryside as noted on page 10 of the transcript
4. A list to identify native species impacted or driven to extinction due to native logging as noted on page 11 of the transcript
5. Work undertaken in relation to traditional cool burns as noted on page 11 of the transcript
6. The steps or plans being undertaken to tackle the five drivers of biodiversity loss as noted on page 11 of the transcript.

Answers to Questions on Notice

1. This question is best referred to Parks Victoria (PV) as it is a management issue related to a program response.
2. The State of the Environment 2018 Report (SoE 2018) found that data related to invasive terrestrial flora was good while data on invasive terrestrial fauna was poor. The status of both indicators was assessed as poor and declining based on data from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). This query is best directed to DELWP in the first instance.
3. This question is best referred to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). DELWP is well positioned to explain the regulations associated with development within the urban growth boundary through legislation such as the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (Environment Mitigation Levy) Act 2020 and other regulatory and policy mechanisms including the circular economy policy.
4. We refer the Inquiry to the State of the Forests 2018 Report – specifically indicator **1.2a. The status of forest-dependent species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations, as determined by legislation or scientific assessment** and the accompanying Table 14 (p69). Indicator 1.2a reported that 18 species were listed as extinct (and further categorised as ‘extinct in the wild’ (1 species), ‘extinct’ (8 species), or ‘regionally extinct’ (9 species).
5. This is a management issue and best referred to PV and DELWP. Cool burns were not referred to in the 2018 State of the Environment or State of the Forests reports as there was no data to report at that time. It is expected that information will be available for future State of the Environment reports given that on 10 December 2020, the Government ‘supported in principle’ the relevant recommendation (Rec 1) in the State of the Environment 2018 report.
6. This question is best referred to DELWP as the lead agency for biodiversity policy and management oversight including the implementation of Biodiversity 2037, the Government’s plan to protect biodiversity in Victoria.