

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 42
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: TASMANIAN UPPER FLORENTINE FOREST - AGE OF TREES
Hansard Page: 24
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: ... Do you know how old the trees are in that area?

Dr Dripps: Not the individual trees—no. But there are old trees there.

Senator Birmingham: Of variable duration, I would expect.

Dr Dripps: I cannot imagine that they are all the same age.

Senator URQUHART: Are you able to find that information? Clearly if you are opposing the listing then you would have some idea, I guess, as to how old the trees are.

Mr Oxley: Senator, we can take on notice and seek to provide information to you on the age class of that particular area of forest.

Answer:

The Upper Florentine contains areas of old-growth wet eucalypt forest and old growth rainforest communities. The definition of old growth forest varies with fire history and intensity, and the response of each forest type to fire. Generally old-growth forest is at least 100 years old.

Old-growth wet eucalypt forest may include eucalypts which are up to 400 years old.

Old-growth rainforest communities may include trees which are up to 800 years old; including specimens of sassafras up to 200 years old, myrtle up to 500 years old and celery top pine up to 800 years old.