

1343/20

C O P Y

THE HON. THE MINISTER FOR LANDS.

Will you please advise me whether you would be prepared to concur in the recommendation of the Acting Conservator of Forests on previous page.

(Sgd.) J. Scaddan,

3.2.22.

MINISTER FOR FORESTS.

HON. J. SCADDAN.

I agree with the Conservator of Forests that sheoak should be reserved. The flat lands suitable for cultivation do not carry sheoak; but a little of the high land adjacent to the flats is some time needed for residence, sheds, etc. This should, I think, be granted to a settler.

(Sgd.) J.M.

9.2.22.

MINISTER FOR LANDS.

C O P Y

THE HON. MINISTER FOR FORESTS.

I understand that certain experiments are in progress having as their object an investigation of the value for agriculture of the so-called bottle-brush country near Albany.

The bottle-brush flourishes on comparatively low-lying, open flats which are divided by low hills and ridges carrying a pure stand of sheoak. This sheoak, although badly damaged by fire, is the best in the State, and the small area concerned is practically the only pure sheoak forest that we have. It is generally admitted that for agricultural purposes the sandy knolls carrying sheoak are useless, and their value for grazing is very low. Their future value for the raising of a crop of sound sheoak remains to be decided, but they promise well for the regeneration of this valuable timber. The present crop has at the present time a fairly high market value.

I have had a rough survey made by the local forester showing the approximate position and extent of the pure sheoak country, all of which is within the area marked in red on the attached litho. I do not think that any immediate reservations are necessary until the experiments in connection with the bottle-brush country are complete. If these experiments are successful the pure sheoak country should be excluded when the area is subdivided and declared State Forest when their boundaries are then fixed. If no settlement is to take place for some considerable period within the area shown red on the plan attached hereto, it should be declared Timber Reserve and the bottle-brush country released for alienation as required.

If you approve of these suggestions I would recommend that the matter be placed before the Hon. Minister for Lands with a view to securing his concurrence.

(Sgd.) S.L. Kessell,

21st January, 1922.

ACTG. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.