

BEELIAR WETLANDS

**121. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the “Beeliar Regional Park Final Management Plan 2006”, which states —

Over 75% of the wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain have been lost since European settlement and there is a need, as well as a community expectation, that remaining wetlands should be conserved for their particular environmental, cultural and social values ...

What does the minister regard as the greatest current threat to the environmental, cultural and social values of the Beeliar wetlands?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I think it is necessary for me to say that the Minister for Environment has provided the following response —

The government recognises that the Beeliar wetlands are an important wildlife habitat with diverse wetland types and plant assemblages that support a range of native fauna, including the southern brown bandicoot, freshwater turtles and both resident and migratory waterbirds. The greatest current threat is the extended trend of a drying climate and the consequential change to the hydrology of the wetlands system. This in turn leads to significant weed invasion, which is being addressed by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the local government authority and volunteer groups.