

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS, ALGAE

2763. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the Minister to the ongoing algae problems in the Swan and Canning river system and ask for each of the financial years 1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and the current financial year to date, what are the amounts of Phoslock or other bentonite clay used in each river system to reduce the available phosphorous that feed algae blooms?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

In the Swan-Canning river system, Phoslock™ has only been applied to the Canning River upstream of the Kent Street Weir and, in the current financial year, to the Mills Street and Liege Street drains. No other bentonite clay has been applied to reduce phosphorus concentrations.

The amounts of Phoslock™ applied to the Swan-Canning river system are as follows:

Year	Location	Total dry weight of clay (t)
1999/2000	Canning River	45
2000/2001	Canning River	20
2001/2002	Canning River	45
2002/2003	Canning River	26
2003/2004	Mills St/Liege St drains	26 (still in progress)