

MANDURAH — POINT GREY MARINA

**364. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Environment:**

I understand the minister recently approved the Point Grey marina near Mandurah, which is a project that has garnered a lot of attention from constituents in the southern metropolitan area. Can the minister please update the house on the strict conditions placed on this project to protect the estuary?

**Mr W.R. MARMION replied:**

I thank the member for Southern River for his question. I know he is a person who is always concerned about developments and who wants to ensure that they take account of the environment; and, if they do proceed, that any environmental damage is minimised.

Yes, last week I announced that the Point Grey marina development had environmental approval to proceed. It is an issue that I did not take lightly. The marina development, for those people who do not know it, includes a 300-berth marina and a channel that goes across towards the Dawesville Cut. In considering the decision, I took due regard of the fact that the Environmental Protection Authority had a rigorous environmental assessment process, that it had extensive consultation and that it acknowledged in its report that there could be potential short-term local and temporary impacts on the estuary fauna but that these could all be managed. As well as the development going through the EPA process, there were appeals. The Appeals Convenor assessed all the appeals. I understand the member for Mandurah put in an appeal. However, they were all assessed by the Appeals Convenor and then, of course, by me.

Consistent with the EPA's recommendations I approved the development, but I wanted to ensure that I strengthened some of them. There were key issues of concern for the community. I have a bit of knowledge of the area because I grew up around that area and my parents live on the estuary. The main concerns were the dredging and water quality. As set out in my statement, strict conditions were put on compliance reporting and the availability of data. In fact, I added a condition regarding the data that must be made available to the EPA, which means that the data must also be available to the public once it has been validated. There are strict conditions on the estuarine water and sediment quality, and there is also an offset requirement that three areas within the development will be rehabilitated. I am very confident that the conditions laid out in statement 906, which I am happy to table, will ensure that the marina and channel development, which will include a marina and channel monitoring plan that will be monitored by the EPA, will have no impact, or very minimal impact, on the Peel and Harvey inlets.

In relation to the key area of dredging, before dredging can take place, the operator must have a licence under the Waterways Conservation Act and it must have an approved dredge spoil management plan. Before it can do any dredging, it is important that the chief executive officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation ticks off on that. Also, dredging cannot take place outside the winter and spring months because of the key breeding areas in the marina. I am very comfortable that this approved development will be an important asset to the community but, more importantly, there will be minimal, if any, impacts on the environment.