

ENVIRONMENT — WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

1273. Hon DIANE EVERS to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the minister's response to my question on notice 2300 on the Western Australian Biodiversity Audit II, in which he said —

For some assets data is incomplete, including some priority species, wetlands and threatened ecological communities, and it is not appropriate to publicly release incomplete datasets.

- (1) When will the government finish the data collection necessary to complete the datasets for all priority species, wetlands and threatened ecological communities?
- (2) Given that the information available to the public on the Biodiversity Audit II website is generally high level and lacks detail, what criteria does the government apply to determine whether a dataset is complete?
- (3) Biodiversity Audit II does not include marine environments. Will the government consider including marine data; if yes, when will the government collect marine data and release it; and, if no, why not?
- (4) Will the government consider developing citizen science projects to gather data that could be contributed to the state's biodiversity audit?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) Biodiversity Audit II was a snapshot in time for terrestrial biodiversity. The government recognises the value of citizen science contributions to information on the state's biodiversity assets; however, there are currently no plans for further development of the Biodiversity Audit II by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Data in the Biodiversity Audit II was determined to be incomplete if raw data that had been collected had not been checked and verified within the project time frame. Given the honourable member's significant interest in this matter, I would be happy to offer her a briefing to answer any further questions about the Biodiversity Audit II.