

PERTH WATERFRONT PROJECT — DOLPHINS

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

I refer to claims in the environmental assessment report for the Perth Waterfront project that dolphins are likely to use Perth waters only on a transient basis and that Perth waters is not a foraging site.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the basis for these claims has been questioned by Dr Hugh Finn who said, “There simply isn’t the information to sustain those statements, and I did not communicate them (or information supporting them) to the consultant.”
- (2) Does the minister agree with Dr Finn that those statements are a misrepresentation of our current understanding of the ecology of dolphins in the Swan River?
- (3) What further investigations will be undertaken into the potential impacts of the Perth Waterfront project on dolphins, given the view of dolphin experts that there is currently a lack of scientific information about the usage and ecological significance of Perth waters for dolphins?
- (4) Who will conduct these investigations, when will they be completed, and will the results be made public?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) The Minister for Environment was not made aware of the individual submission by Dr Finn. In progressing the development of the Perth Waterfront project, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure that appropriate environmental safeguards are in place. The state government remains firmly committed to ensuring a wide range of programs will be delivered to restore and protect the health of the rivers.