

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND APPROVALS PROCESSES — TASK FORCE

101. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Liberal Party's pre-election promise to establish a high-level ministerial task force to review all environmental legislation and approvals processes and to recommend the changes required to ensure that they meet the world's best practice on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

- (1) Has the task force been established?
- (2) If yes to (1), who is on the task force?
- (3) How often has the task force met?
- (4) When will the task force report to cabinet?
- (5) Will the task force report be made public?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(5) The government's priority is to address improvements to the Western Australian approvals process across all relevant portfolios. The Premier, in conjunction with me, as Minister for Environment, and the Ministers for Regional Development, Indigenous Affairs, Mines and Petroleum, and Planning, is developing recommendations on the improvement of the state's approvals processes. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has convened a group consisting of the directors general of the relevant agencies and the chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority to provide advice and recommendations to the ministerial group. Once work on this priority area has further progressed, I will initiate action in line with our pre-election promise, which has a broader focus than the environmental approvals process.