

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COUNCIL ACTS - SECOND REVIEW**

*Statement by Parliamentary Secretary*

**HON SALLY TALBOT (South West - Parliamentary Secretary)** [11.03 am]: I inform the house that the Minister for the Environment attended the fifteenth meeting of the National Environment Protection Council held on 2 June 2007. It was agreed that the “Report of the Second Review of the National Environment Protection Council Acts”, prepared by John Ramsay Consulting Pty Ltd, would be tabled in each jurisdiction’s Parliament by 30 June 2007. This is consistent with the intent of section 64 of the National Environment Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996. The National Environment Protection Council is responsible for the introduction of national environment protection measures. These measures help protect our environment by setting standards that relate to a wide range of environmental issues.

I am pleased to inform the house that the review concluded that the core aspects of National Environment Protection Council activities and processes are sound. It notes that the NEPC model appears to have some distinctive benefits and be cost-effective in its approach to matters such as jurisdictional cooperation, consultation and engaging relevant expertise in jurisdictions. The review makes a number of recommendations aimed at streamlining and improving processes, promoting greater uniformity and accountability in the implementation of national environment protection measures in jurisdictions, and making the National Environment Protection Council acts more responsive to the environmental needs of the present day. The NEPC is expected to respond to the recommendations of the review at its next meeting, scheduled for November or December 2007 in Perth. A copy of the “Report of the Second Review of the National Environment Protection Council Acts” will be tabled today.

[See paper 2917.]

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Bruce Donaldson**.