

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION — “ELVIS” HELICOPTER

10. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation ever refused to give consent to the Erickson sky-crane “Elvis” dropping sea water onto a particular site for environmental reasons?
- (2) If so, on how many occasions?
- (3) If so, on how many occasions since November 2011?
- (4) If so, at what sites and in relation to what incidents?
- (5) What are the criteria for DEC to consider it inappropriate to drop sea water at a particular location?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) The practice of dropping sea water was questioned on one occasion when it was proposed on 4 January 2012. However, it had no bearing on fire suppression as the sky-crane was not required for the incident in question.
- (4) It was at Jandabup Lake, Jandabup for Swan coastal fire 47.
- (5) DEC does not have formal criteria for this purpose. The question arose at an operational level in relation to risk to surrounding property and possible environmental impacts on the wetland. Environmental factors are considered in bushfire suppression operations so long as successful suppression is not jeopardised.