

PHOSLOCK - USE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WATERWAYS

**680. Hon PAUL LLEWELLYN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:**

I refer to the use of the product Phoslock in Western Australian environments to control the release of soluble phosphates into rivers, lakes and waterways.

- (1) Which rivers, lakes and waterways in Western Australia have been treated with the product Phoslock?
- (2) Which agency is responsible for the application of Phoslock to the environment?
- (3) Does the government monitor the effectiveness of this treatment in Western Australian rivers, lakes and waterways?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the minister please detail any studies?
- (5) If not, why not?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank Hon Paul Llewellyn for some notice of this question. The minister has provided a response in the following terms -

- (1) The Swan River Trust has trialled the use of Phoslock in the Canning River and some urban drains in the lower Canning. However, it is responsible only for the Swan and Canning Rivers. For information on Phoslock use throughout Western Australia, the member will need to refer the question to the Department of Water.
- (2) The Swan River Trust is responsible for approving the use of Phoslock in the Swan and Canning Rivers only. All other waterways are controlled by the Department of Water.
- (3) The Swan River Trust monitors the effectiveness of Phoslock when applied in the Swan and Canning Rivers.
- (4)-(5) The results of Phoslock trials in the Canning River are documented in the "River Science" publication, issue 17 of June 2001, which is available on the Swan River Trust website.