

MOORINGS SOUTH OF BUNBURY, REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

464. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Are any formal regulations in place for registering moorings south of Bunbury?
- (2) If not, are there any plans to do so?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the Margaret River Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue Group is concerned there are too many moorings in Cowaramup Bay?
- (4) Is the minister aware of the Margaret River Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue Group's view that a serious accident is inevitable unless quick action is taken to cut the number of moorings?
- (5) Does the minister support this view; and, if not, why not?
- (6) Will the minister undertake to act quickly to address these concerns, given that the peak summer season is almost upon us?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. However, question (6) appears to be missing on the copy of the question I have been given.

Hon Barry House: Sorry, I had two questions numbered (5).

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD: The answer I will give to question (6) applies also to question (5), as it is a broad answer.

- (1) Yes. Declared mooring control areas are proclaimed under the Shipping and Pilotage Act 1967 at Bandy Creek Boat Harbour in Esperance, Fishery Beach in Bremer Bay, Emu Point Boat Harbour in Albany, and Koombana Bay in Bunbury.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. A letter from the president of the Margaret River Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue Group expressing concern about this matter has been received by the minister's office and will be replied to shortly.
- (4) Yes. This view was expressed in the letter referred to in the answer to question (3).
- (5)-(6) Regional officers from Bunbury are investigating allegations of overcrowding of moorings in Cowaramup Bay and will use the regulations, as necessary, in the interests of safety. The minister is currently awaiting advice based on this investigation. The Department for Planning and Infrastructure is currently reviewing areas in Western Australia in which vessels moor at places other than boat harbours and coastal facilities. Regardless of the findings of this review, officers of the department have authority under the Navigable Waters Regulations to direct vessels to moor or to remove vessels or moorings in accordance with such directions. Departmental officers will closely monitor marine safety compliance over the summer period.