

BAUDIN EXPEDITION, BICENTENARY

111. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Forestry and Fisheries:

I refer to the recent announcement of the successful tender to replace the Fisheries WA vessel PV *Baudin*, and ask -

- (1) Is the minister aware that 2001 is the bicentenary of the Baudin expedition to Western Australia's coastline?
- (2) In such an important year for this State's French connections, does the Government appreciate that it may be a little insensitive to remove the PV *Baudin* from service?
- (3) In the light of the historical significance of the Baudin name, does the Government intend to carry that name forward to the newly built vessel?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) No, I regret that I was not aware of that. I thank the member for bringing it to my attention.
- (2) The removal of this vessel from service at this time possibly is insensitive; however, the vessel had run a little over its time and was due to be replaced.
- (3) It may have been considered; however, a decision has been made to name the vessel differently. I am not able to publicly reveal the name at this time.

Hon Peter Foss: It's not a Labor politician, is it?

Hon KIM CHANCE: I am certain that the member will be delighted when he learns the name of the new vessel.

Hon Peter Foss: The Eric Charlton!