

LAND CLEARING, 304 BADGERUP ROAD, GNANGARA

2110. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 1497 of 2003 and to the Report of the Auditor General, Report No 7 – September 2003 and ask -

- (a) when was the groundwater extraction licence applied for; and
- (b) given the comments of the Auditor General on the management of groundwater resources by the Water and Rivers Commission, should the licence have been issued?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) A Groundwater Licence Application Form was received by the Water and Rivers Commission on 13 January 2003.
- (b) Yes. A review of licences in the area in July 2001 identified water freed up for allocation within the existing allocation limit of the Lake Gngangara sub-area. The applicant was subsequently issued a short term licence (6 months) the renewal of which was subject to all necessary approvals being obtained.

All necessary approvals, including City of Wanneroo planning approval and Department of Agriculture advice that there were no objections, were subsequently obtained. A licence was issued on 4 March 2003 for two years with renewal dependent on meeting the conditions of the licence.

Water allocations in the Lake Gngangara Sub-area are still below the existing allocation limit.