

PORT GEOGRAPHE PROJECT, BUSSELTON - SEAGRASS WRACK AND
SAND BYPASSING OPERATION

5533. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the Port Geographe development in Busselton and in particular to the Government endorsed seagrass wrack and sand bypassing operation currently underway -

- (1) Has any environmental analysis been conducted on the impact of bypassing shredded seagrass wrack on the seagrass beds and general marine environment in the vicinity of the bypass operations?
- (2) If yes to (1), what are the results of the analysis?
- (3) If no to (1), why was approval given to this form of bypass operation?
- (4) Is this bypass operation consistent with the original approvals given for this development?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes. The then Department of Environmental Protection reviewed and approved the proponent's Seagrass Wrack Management Programme (prepared pursuant to Ministerial Statement 391, Condition 5-4) in October 1995.

Annual aerial surveys of the seagrass meadows have not detected any significant decrease in their size. The Department has been reviewing periodic Water Quality Monitoring Reports submitted by the proponent (required under Commitment 6 of Ministerial Statement 391).

The Department has recently reviewed the proponent's revised Water Quality Management Plan, submitted as required under Proponent Commitment P3.1 of Ministerial Statement 391. The Department has provided detailed technical advice on the Plan, and has deferred approving the Plan until it is amended in accordance with that advice.

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.