

TONKIN HIGHWAY ON-RAMP, WETLANDS

2482. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Are the wetlands threatened by the proposed Tonkin Highway on-ramp on the draft register of the EPA's Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands Environmental Protection Policy?
- (2) How many National/State significant conservation factors are to be found in the proposed Tonkin Highway on-ramp area?
- (3) How many Regional significant conservation factors are to be found in the proposed Tonkin Highway on-ramp area?
- (4) How many Local significant conservation factors are to be found in the proposed Tonkin Highway on-ramp area?
- (5) How many policy statements relevant to conservation of wetlands and bushland in Western Australia is this proposal inconsistent with?
- (6) Will the Minister table all correspondence on the Tonkin Highway on-ramp proposal between the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the DoE and EPA?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1) The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) assessed the proposal by Main Roads Western Australia for the Abernethy Road Tonkin Highway On - Ramp and released its Report and recommendations (Bulletin 1119) to the Minister for the Environment in November 2003. The EPA's publicly available Report and recommendations identified the significant environmental factors including that the proposal has the potential to impact on a Conservation Category wetland (CCW) that is on the draft Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy and Regulations released in July 2004.
- (2) As documented in the EPA's publicly available Report and recommendations the proposal has the potential to impact on one site listed on the Register of the National Estate which is a national significant environmental factor. State significant environmental factors are addressed in the response to question 3.
- (3) As documented in the EPA's publicly available Report and recommendations, the proposal has the potential to impact on a regionally significant Conservation Category wetland; vegetation identified in Bush Forever Site 386; a Threatened Ecological Community; and Declared Rare Flora and priority flora which are also considered to be State significant environmental factors.
- (4) The EPA's publicly available Report and recommendations did not identify any locally significant relevant environmental factors.
- (5) The EPA's publicly available report details the policy context for this proposal being Wetland Conservation Policy for Western Australia (1997); the EPA Preliminary Position Statement No. 4 Environmental Protection of Wetlands (2001) and the Water and Rivers Commission Position Statement on Wetlands (2001).
- (6) The Minister for the Environment tabled correspondence (see Attachment 1) provided to the EPA from the Bush Forever Office of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure received as a submission in response to the Public Environmental Review.