

OWEN ANCHORAGE, DREDGING

807. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) Has the Minister for the Environment and Heritage read bulletin 1033, which is the report and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority regarding the long-term dredging of Owen Anchorage?
- (2) Is the minister now aware that -
 - (a) a further 170 hectares of seagrass will be destroyed by dredging;
 - (b) the large-scale replacement of seagrass is not economically feasible or even physically possible at the depths to which the channel will be dredged; and
 - (c) the opening of a wide channel will cause increased wave action and ongoing damage to the existing shoreline?
- (3) Will taxpayers or Cockburn Cement Ltd be paying for the ongoing ecological repairs to the environment in Cockburn Sound or will this damage remain unrepaired?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised that, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, she will be considering the EPA's report in due course and, together with any appeals received, will make a decision on whether or not the proposal may proceed and on any conditions that should apply.