

WETLANDS, NOMINATION FOR RAMSAR LISTING

2329. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Why has the Government failed to honour its commitment to nominate further Western Australian wetlands for Ramsar listing?
- (2) Has this process been stalled by opposition from the mining industry and the Department of Industry and Resources?
- (3) Does the Minister still intend to nominate any wetlands for Ramsar listing prior to the next State Election?
- (4) If yes, which ones?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Government commitment is to “continue the process of nominating significant wetlands for inclusion on the Ramsar Convention list of Wetlands of International Importance. Wetlands already recognised as fitting the criteria for nomination will be prioritised for possible listing”. This commitment is being achieved. Priority wetlands for consideration for nomination have been identified as the Cape Range subterranean waterways, Ellen Brook swamps, Lake MacLeod, Spearwood Creek, Lake Ballard, Millstream pools, Shark Bay East-Hamelin Pool and Lake Gregory/Paruku, along with possible extensions to existing Ramsar sites at Vasse-Wonnerup, Peel-Yalgorup, Becher Point, Lake Warden, Muir-Byenup and Toolibin.
- (2) No.
- (3) No, however, preparatory work for future nominations is continuing.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) There is insufficient time to complete the community consultation and preparation of management plans for each proposal. The requirement for a management plan to be in place prior to nomination is a new requirement of the Australian Government, introduced after the last successful State nominations in early 2001.