

BUNBURY CUT

1062. Hon ADELE FARINA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the cut in Bunbury.

- (1) Is the minister aware that sea rescue services have been instructed not to go to the aid of recreational boats in difficulty in the cut due to the dangerous conditions created by the sandbar that has developed in the area?
- (2) Has any remedial work commenced to correct the sandbar?
- (3) If yes to (2), what are the works and when will they be completed?
- (4) If no to (2), why not, and when will remedial works commence and be completed?
- (5) What safety measures have been put in place to protect the boating community until remedial work at the cut is completed?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Transport understands that the local volunteer sea rescue service had implemented a self-imposed ban on operating at the cut.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Department of Transport undertook emergency works to repair the breached breakwater at the cut in May 2014. This interim repair has subsequently seen the recently formed sandbar inside this drainage channel significantly reduce and deepen and it continues to do so. The Department of Transport is periodically surveying this waterway to monitor change. The sandbar outside the entrance to the cut has always been present and there has been little change to that feature as a result of either the breach or the repair. The Department of Transport has completed an assessment of all the rock structures at the cut.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The cut is not a designated navigation channel and is primarily a drainage structure. Safety measures to protect the boating community who choose to use this channel include the Department of Transport's local boating guide, including a caution relating to the cut, "The entrance to the Cut can be extremely dangerous. Mariners are advised that breaking seas and tidal flow may be hazardous to navigation."

A temporary notice to mariners continues to be maintained advising of risks at the cut; signage is in place at local boat ramps advising that the cut is not recommended for navigation; and signage has been placed on the rock structures at the cut stating that the cut is not recommended for navigation. Planned additional safety measures, including a direct mail-out to boaters in the Bunbury area advising of the risks at the cut, is in preparation; and an article will be included in the next boating communities newsletter referring to the updated temporary notice to mariners.