

FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY, RUBBLE

**864. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

- (1) Is the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure aware that bathers at Port and Leighton Beaches are risking injury from Fremantle Port Authority rubble in the water and washing up on the beaches?
- (2) Will the authority accept responsibility for this rubble and recompense the City of Fremantle for the \$1 000 a week clean-up costs?

**Hon G.T. GIFFARD replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Small rocks have been washed up seasonally onto Port Beach in previous years but the problem is greater this year. The Fremantle Port Authority has engaged experts to assist with identifying the types of small rocks currently appearing on Port Beach which have been identified as mainly limestone cobbles and limestone with coral, although small amounts of other material, including glass, is present. With the help of divers, the Fremantle Port Authority is also conducting some underwater surveying of the seabed off Port Beach and a section of Leighton Beach. As well as seeking to locate the likely source or sources of the material, the aim is to get a better idea of how much material is offshore in the area. This will be important in looking at future strategies for management of the problem. The Fremantle Port Authority and the City of Fremantle are currently preparing notices to be placed on the beach to warn bathers of the presence of the small rocks and to inform them of the work that is being undertaken.
- (2) At this stage the source of the small rocks and other material has yet to be determined. The Fremantle Port Authority has been liaising closely with the City of Fremantle on the matter of beach rubble and several weeks ago approached the city with an offer to contribute one-half of the current clean-up costs as well as to undertake the investigatory work necessary to determine strategies for management of the problem.