

ACID SULPHATE SOIL RISK MAPS, DEVELOPMENT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

76. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Is the Government funding the development of acid sulphate soil risk maps for Western Australia?
 - (2) If yes, how much funding has the project received for this financial year?
 - (3) If no, why not given the significant risks involved in disturbing acid sulphate soils such as groundwater contamination and damage to infrastructure?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Government is committed to funding the development of acid sulfate soil risk maps for Western Australia, particularly for coastal areas where there is intensive development pressure. However, a specific allocation for the purpose has not yet been made.
- (2) The project has not yet received specific funding this financial year.
- (3) Advice has been provided to all local government authorities in the State about how to recognise and assess acid sulfate soils using currently available geological maps. This will provide an interim measure until properly ground-truthed mapping of acid sulfate soils can be undertaken.