

SKY JETTY PROJECT

533. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

I refer to the Australian Labor Party's election policy titled "Labor. protecting our old-growth forests", which stated -

Labor is also committed to the expansion of regional and rural tourism, and is proposing a number of initiatives to assist regional tourism.

- (1) Was the continuation of the coalition's sky jetty project in the Donnelly valley, as one of these initiatives, a commitment of this Government prior to the last election?
- (2) Is it true that the recent feasibility process revealed that the sky jetty project is viable?
- (3) Given that the Shires of Nannup, Manjimup and Bridgetown-Greenbushes strongly support this regional tourism project, will the minister instruct the Department of Conservation and Land Management to fund the project, as it did with the Tree Top Walk; and, if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) We are certainly committed to this proposal. In fact, we have allocated money under the old-growth forests initiative towards the proposal. We have also been pleased to allocate that money, acknowledging that the federal Government is also allocating money. Therefore, a feasibility study has been done. The study raised some other issues that we are continuing to follow up. However, we remain committed to it and we want to see it constructed.