

MARINE SURVEYORS IN GERALDTON, REDUCTION OF NUMBER

472. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Has the Department for Planning and Infrastructure reduced the number of marine surveyors in Geraldton?
- (2) If so, how will the department cope with the requirement for marine surveys in Geraldton, given that in excess of 430 boats require this service?
- (3) Has the department costed bringing surveyors to Geraldton on an as-needs basis?
- (4) If so, what are those costs?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) A review of the department's commercial vessel survey function has highlighted that from time to time two full-time surveyors are not fully utilised in the Geraldton area. From 1 July 2004, one of the two marine surveyors based in Geraldton will be relocated to Perth and will be replaced by Perth-based marine surveyors on a rotational basis during peak periods.
- (2) Not all vessels need to be surveyed at the one time and this service can be managed by providing extra capacity from Perth when required.
- (3) Costs associated with rotating marine surveyors will vary depending on the number of vessels requiring survey at any one time. However, better utilisation of the senior surveyor's capacity in Perth will be more resource effective than having spare capacity in Geraldton.
- (4) Not applicable.