

SOUTH BEACH PTY LTD, REMEDIATION OF OFF-SITE CONTAMINATION

836. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

In question on notice No. 10 of September 2002 the Environment Minister stated that 'The developer of the proposed urban re-development program for South Fremantle, South Beach Pty Ltd, ...is the party the DEP considers to be responsible for addressing, remediating and/or managing on-site and offsite contamination associated with the operations of the former foundry...'.

In an email to City of Fremantle councillors on June 7 2003 the former South Beach project manager stated that 'The South Beach developer is not responsible for the remediation of any off-site contamination. We were not the polluter or the authority responsible for allowing any off-site contamination to occur. This is our legal position which has been agreed upon by the DEP/EPA.' -

- (1) Does the Minister stand by the statement in question on notice No. 10 of September 2002?
- (2) Has the DEP/EPA agreed to the position stated to by the former South Beach project manager?
- (3) Will the Minister table all correspondence between the South Beach developer regarding who is responsible for addressing, remediating and/or managing on-site and offsite contamination associated with the operations of the former foundry?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1) This was the view and advice of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at that time.
- (2) To-date, the developers and the City of Cockburn have been working together to investigate the foreshore dune area in consultation with the DEP, because:
 - Under the Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment No.1008/33, the site developers are responsible for preparing a site investigation and management plan which requires the 'notation of any contamination which it is reasonable to assume has extended beyond the boundary of the amendment area as a result of previous land use within the amendment area'.
 - The foreshore dune area is, however, vested in the City of Cockburn and therefore the DEP now considers that the responsibility for the management of the foreshore dunes lies with the City of Cockburn. The Environmental Protection Authority has not been formally approached on the matter of responsibility.
- (3) Copies of correspondence are available through application via the DEP's Freedom of Information Officer.