

SWAN RIVER CATCHMENT – BANNING OF PHOSPHOROUS FERTILISER

218. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Water

- (1) Has the Department of Water Resources done a follow-up study to determine the effectiveness of the banning of highly-soluble phosphorous fertilizer in the Swan River catchment;
 - (a) and if not, why?
- (2) If yes to (1), what reduction in algal growth has occurred?
- (3) If no, when does the Department intend to conduct a follow-up study?
- (4) What other measures are in place to address the impending summer algal bloom?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1) No
 - (a) The fertilizer action plan has not yet been enacted by Government.
- (2) NA
- (3) See answer to (1)(a)
- (4) The DoW participates in a wide range of nutrient reduction activities throughout the State in partnership with other agencies and community groups. For example, the DoW staff have been instrumental in developing water quality improvement plans focused on nutrient reduction for the Vasse Geographe, Swan Canning and Peel Harvey catchments. These are all aimed at reducing nuisance algal growth.

The DoW will continue its surveillance of waterways, reporting regularly on algal blooms, issuing warnings where appropriate and coordinating bloom response where required