

COCKBURN SOUND, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

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

- (1) Has the public release of the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for Cockburn Sound been deferred again?
- (2) If yes, is this a result of the current upheaval in the Department of Environmental Protection?
- (3) Can the Minister indicate when this long-awaited policy will be released for public review?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised that in its June 2001 Progress Report on the Cockburn Sound Environmental Protection Policy, the Environmental Protection Authority wrote that it anticipates a release of the Draft Environmental Protection Policy for public consultation in the last quarter of 2001. This is the timeframe to which the EPA is working.

- (2) Answered by (1).

- (3) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised that the Draft Cockburn Sound Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) is in an advanced stage of preparation.

However, there are some details of both a legal and technical nature which are being carefully worked through with the Cockburn Sound Management Council which represents all parties. There is a cross referencing benefit in the EPP being worked up in parallel with the Environmental Management Plan in any case. The EMP will give practical effect to the EPP.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised that while there is some urgency to complete the Draft Environmental Protection Policy in a form suitable for public comment, it would be premature and unhelpful for this to be published until it is ready.