

COLLIE RIVER — SALINITY DIVERSION PROJECT

1964. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Water

Regarding a press statement released by the Minister on 20 July 2009, in which mention was made of a \$30 million funding commitment for the Collie Pilot Expansion Project for salinity recovery in the Collie River system, I ask the Minister:

- (a) when is it expected that this program will resume, so that it can address rising salinity in the Collie River;
- (b) will the Minister provide details on the specifics on the time-line for this project; and
- (c) can the Minister provide a list of all the groups and organisations that are to be involved with this project?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (a) Having undertaken the 3 year trial diversion, the Department of Water is currently preparing detailed plans and design documents for the pilot expansion for diversion and salinity recovery.
- (b) Work on location of treatment site and storage for the water is expected to be completed by first quarter 2010. Planning on the method of treatment is well advanced with detailed planning to be completed when project sites are finalised.
- (c) The Collie River recovery scheme concept was developed by the Department of Water in partnership with community and industry in late 2002. It has involved a large number of individuals, groups and companies. An indication of this involvement is shown by the fact that 46 people/organisations took part in the formal evaluation of options for the project. The organisations that will be involved in the future is currently being decided, but will not be confirmed until specific sites for plant and equipment are finalised.