

YARRAGADEE AQUIFER, EXTRACTION RATE

1059. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

In relation to the study the Water and Rivers Commission and Water Corporation were commissioned to carry out on the increased extraction from the Yarragadee Aquifer -

- (1) Has a consultant been commissioned to investigate social impacts from increased extraction from the aquifer?
- (2) If yes,
  - (a) who are the consultants; and
  - (b) what social impacts are the consultants reviewing?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes. The social assessment was carried out in two parts, a Social Values Study and a Cultural Values Study.
- (2)
  - (a) Australian Centre for Water in Society, CSIRO conducted the Social Values Study. Brad Coode and Associates (Consulting Anthropologists and Archaeologists) conducted the Cultural Values Study.
  - (b) Both the Social and Cultural Values studies are complete. The reports are publicly available on the project website. The consultants reviewed a range of issues including:
    - The values people attributed to ground water systems.
    - The opinion people held of the proposal to allocate water from the region.
    - The sites of cultural significance, such as the Blackwood River and wetlands throughout the study area.

Please note that the reports have been finalised and publicly available on the Water and Rivers Commission's website.