

MINING LICENCES, NATURE RESERVES IN WILLIAM BAY AREA

401. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Is the Minister aware that an Exploration Licence E70/2267 and Mining Lease Application M70/1016 covers two nature reserves controlled by CALM in the William Bay area?
  - (2) When were these licenses placed over these nature reserves?
  - (3) Do these licences conflict with the Government's Environment policy to 'prohibit mineral and petroleum exploration and mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves'?
  - (4) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) These applications do not affect any nature reserves. They do however affect a timber reserve and a gravel reserve proposed as a nature reserve. The applications have not yet been referred to me for consideration in accordance with Section 24 of the Mining Act 1978.
- (2) I am advised that exploration license 70/2267 was applied for in March 2000 and mining lease 70/1016 was applied for in July 1998.
- (3) The applications will be considered in accordance with Government policy and legislated requirements when the applications are referred to me.
- (4) See (3) above.