

REGIONAL FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAM, CARNARVON

850. Hon Tom Stephens to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to the newly established Regional Flood Mitigation program and ask -

- (1) Is the Minister for Water Resources aware that Carnarvon Shire residents are still struggling after the severe floods earlier this year and that Carnarvon Shire figures show a 70 per cent downturn in the local economy?
- (2) Why is there no mention of Carnarvon receiving funding in recent media reports of this program?
- (3) Will the Minister undertake to include Carnarvon as part of this program?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) Yes. The Minister for Water Resources is aware of the local impact that the recent March 2000 flood has had on Carnarvon's community. The Minister has appreciated the effects of major flooding in the area even prior to the recent March flooding. In August 1998 the Minister released a report "A Framework for Floodplain Management in Western Australia; with a focus on Carnarvon Report of the Ministerial Taskforce into Floodplain Management to the Minister for Water Resources". The report recommended a floodplain management study that will assess various options that may lessen the impact of flooding in the Carnarvon area. Since that time Cabinet has endorsed the Taskforce recommendations and the Water and Rivers Commission is now implementing the recommendations. The Minister's media statement dated 21 August 2000 details the recent appointment of consultants Sinclair Knight Merz to undertake the Carnarvon flood study.
- (2) Funding assistance from the Federal Regional Flood Mitigation Programme is only for eligible structural flood mitigation works. In July 2000, Federal funding assistance of \$70,000.00 was secured from the Federal Natural Disaster Risk Management Studies Program for the Carnarvon flood study. This Program provides funding assistance for flood studies only. The funding of the Carnarvon flood study is being equally shared by the Federal Government, the State Government through the Water and Rivers Commission and the Shire of Carnarvon.
- (3) Yes. Structural works which may be recommended from Carnarvon's flood study will be eligible for funding assistance from the Federal Regional Flood Mitigation Programme. The State Government has already allocated \$200,000.00 from the Lower Gascoyne Management Strategy to implement the study outcomes which may involve structural works.
- (4) Not applicable.