

ACID SULFATE SOILS, CABLE SANDS MINING LEASE, D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK

2322. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Has the DoE/EPA carried out, or commissioned, a study of the acid sulphate soils potential along the south coast of Western Australia?
- (2) If yes to (1), where is this study available for viewing?
- (3) Has the DoE/EPA carried out, or commissioned, a study of the acid sulphate soils potential of the area Cable Sands wants to mine for mineral sands in the excised portion of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park next to Lake Jasper?
- (4) If yes to (3), where is this study available for viewing?
- (5) If no to (3), what acid sulphate soil information is the DoE/EPA relying on to assess the mineral sands mining proposal and who commissioned the report(s)?
- (6) What is the current conservation status of the excised portion of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park next to Lake Jasper over which Cable Sands has a mining lease?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1) Yes, partly - a study of the Acid Sulphate Soils Potential of land within the area referred to as the Scott Coastal Plain, located on the south coast between the towns of Augusta and Nannup, was carried out by the Department of Environment on behalf of the Coordinating Committee for the South West Yarragadee Water Supply Project in 2003.
- (2) The report on the Scott Coastal Plain study can be viewed on request at the Perth office of the Department of Environment.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The proposed Jangardup South mining project is subject to environmental impact assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) at the level of Environmental Review and Management Plan (ERMP). As part of the assessment process, the proponent, Cable Sands (WA) Pty Ltd, is required to undertake investigations on the potential for the project to adversely affect groundwater quality, Lake Jasper and other environmental values in the area of the proposed mine. These investigations will be subject to a scientific peer review process involving a group of suitable persons from the government and private sector.

In providing advice to the EPA on matters relating to Acid Sulphate Soils during the Authority's assessment of the proposal, the Department of Environment will take into account information provided in the regional studies referred to above, peer reviewed documentation from the ERMP process and other available information.

- (6) It is assumed that the reference to the term "conservation status" in this question is a reference to the current land tenure, vesting and purpose of the subject area.

The area near Lake Jasper that was excised by Parliament from D'Entrecasteaux National Park in 1996 over which Cable Sands now has a mining lease, is referred to as Crown Reserve 44705. This reserve is vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia for the purposes of 'conservation and resource management' and is managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) under Section 5(1)(g) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.