

WOODMAN POINT, SEWAGE SPILL

470. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

In relation to the sewage spill at the Woodman Point outfall on the February 22 2002 -

- (1) Has the DEP completed its investigation of the spill?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister table the report?
- (3) Has the DEP required the Water Corporation to undertake any measures to ensure that a recurrence of a similar sewage spill does not occur?
- (4) If so, what are they?
- (5) Has the DEP required the Water Corporation to undertake improvements to its sewage spill incident response?
- (6) If so, what are those measures?
- (7) Will the Water Corporation be permitted to test the pipeline in this manner in the future?
- (8) Why has the DEP not ensured that there is a shut-off valve at the ocean end of this pipeline?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has been advised by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that it has yet to complete the investigation of the spill of secondary treated effluent into Cockburn Sound.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Yes, it has.
- (4) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has been advised that the DEP has set conditions on future testing and tie in works for the Woodman Point emergency overflow pipeline to minimise the risk of future spills into Cockburn Sound. These conditions include:

The Water Corporation is to ensure that the overflow pipeline is internally inspected using a video camera prior to the test and the Cockburn Sound outfall pipeline monitored by divers during the test.

The testing will be immediately abandoned if the inspection and monitoring detects any leaks or failures of the emergency outfall pipeline.
- (5) At this time, the DEP has not finalised the incident investigation that will include scrutiny of the Water Corporation's incident response procedures.
- (6) Answered by (5).
- (7) The Water Corporation has been approved to commence another hydraulic test of the pipeline with conditions that prescribe upgraded inspection, monitoring and notification measures.
- (8) The DEP has not required a shut off valve at the end of the outfall pipeline, as this would not minimise the risk of an effluent leak along the pipeline. The original failure of the pipeline on 22 February 2002 was due to damage to the pipeline. Inspection and monitoring of the pipeline is considered the most appropriate measure to prevent this type of incident.