

**PREMIER COAL — LAKE KEPWARI MINE VOID**

2707. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Lake Kepwari mine void on Yancoal Australia Group's Premier Coal mine site in Collie and ask:

- (a) is the Lake Kepwari mine void currently being used as a diving training venue;
- (b) if so, how was the availability to use the Lake Kepwari mine void allocated to the current company using the facility as a training site;
- (c) in addition to the Department of Mines and Petroleum statutory input, does the Environmental Protection Authority have any control over how mine voids are used, the purpose of their use and who accesses the mine voids for such purposes; and
- (d) will Lake Kepwari mine void be used for recreational purposes and if so, when?

**Mr A.P. Jacob replied:**

- (a) No
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) No. The coal mining proposal was not subject to formal environmental impact assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority. Accordingly, it was not subject to Ministerial conditions relating to the mining and rehabilitation of the project under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (d) The details of the future use of Lake Kepwari will depend on the condition of the lake and the surrounding area upon its surrender from the mining lease under the Collie Coal (Western Collieries) Agreement Act 1979. Yancoal Premier Coal has not yet advised when it intends to initiate processes to surrender the area from the mining lease.