

GERALDTON HARBOUR AND CHANNEL, DREDGING

**1035. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Will the minister confirm that the deepening of the Geraldton harbour and channel is on time and on budget at this date?

**Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The contract date for practical completion of dredging remains 31 August 2003. The minister is advised that dredging is over 75 per cent completed. The contractor has indicated that it believes it will be difficult to achieve the contracted date. The port authority is continuing to work with the contractor to assist it to meet its obligation, and the minister is advised that the interests of the port and the community will be appropriately protected under the contract in the event of delay. The actual end date will be dependent on weather and sea state but we are now working on a completion at the end of October. The minister has further advised that the project is on budget.