

WOODMAN POINT, BEACH EROSION AND PLASTIC BARRIER

119. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development
- (1) Has the Department of Commerce and Trade erected a plastic barrier to stop people falling off the edge of sand cliffs near Woodman Point?
 - (2) Did the DOCT extend an old breakwater into Cockburn Sound near Woodman Point in 1997?
 - (3) Is this breakwater contributing to the dramatic erosion of the beach at Woodman Point?
 - (4) What does the DOCT plan to do to halt further erosion and restore the beach?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I am advised as follows:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A consultancy commissioned to investigate the factors that may be contributing to the erosion concluded that the beach has been reacting to the placement of a large quantity of sand on it during the mid 1970s from the construction of the Ocean Endeavour oil rig. It found that the erosion has been occurring since the sand was deposited there and prior to the breakwater extension. The report found that the breakwater extension is not responsible for the erosion but that under certain conditions waves reflecting off the breakwater have created localised and increased westwards sand movement from the eastern end of the beach, near the breakwater.
- (4) The coastal engineering consultancy recommended the best approach is to manage the erosion and allow nature to take its course rather than try to interfere with it. The beach is expected to re-establish itself close to the level of the early 1970s beach line. The erosion has recently extended beyond the breakwater and threatens the adjacent roadway. As part of the management of the problem the breakwater will shortly be extended inland. When the erosion ceases it is planned to reshape and revegetate the beach in consultation with the key stakeholders.