

COCKBURN SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

529. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Has the Cockburn Sound Environmental Protection Policy been completed?
 - (2) If not, why not?
 - (3) Will the Government approve developments such as Hismelt, the James Point Port and the Live Sheep Loading Facility before this EPP is put in place?
 - (4) What is the future role of the Cockburn Sound Management Council now that the Government plans to abolish its parent body, the Water and Rivers Commission?
 - (5) Which Agency or body will now be responsible for implementing the Environmental Management Plan for Cockburn Sound?
 - (6) From what legislation will this body derive authority to implement the Cockburn Sound EMP?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response.

- (1) No, the policy is still being developed. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage announced in Parliament in December 2002 that once the legal drafting of the Cockburn Sound Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) is completed she will commence her consultation phase in accordance with Section 30 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (2) Environmental Protection Policies are statutory instruments and are developed through extensive community consultation. In the case of the Cockburn Sound EPP there are many groups and individuals that have been keen to be involved in its development.
- (3) The Government will make decisions on these projects following due process and having regard for the objectives of the Revised Draft Cockburn Sound EPP.
- (4) It is envisaged that the legislation currently being drafted to establish an agency to absorb the functions of the Water and Rivers Commission will provide for continuity of committees such as the Cockburn Sound Management Council.
- (5) The Cockburn Sound EPP will establish a committee under the Policy to have carriage of the Environmental Management Plan required under that Policy. It is expected that this committee and the Cockburn Sound Management Council will in fact be the same body.
- (6) The committee will gain its authority from the EPP approved pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act 1986.