

MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA — FREMANTLE TRAFFIC BRIDGE

553. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to media reports of 29 February 2016 concerning a vessel upturning in the Swan River in the vicinity of the Fremantle Traffic Bridge and reported comments from a Main Roads spokesperson at the time that a boat carrying cement appeared to be involved.

- (1) Does Main Roads Western Australia have knowledge of the incident taking place?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) On what date did the incident occur?
 - (b) Was the vessel loaded with concrete associated with repairs to the Fremantle Traffic Bridge?
 - (c) Did any diesel or concrete from the vessel enter the water?
 - (d) Did the concrete have any chemical components that could be damaging to the marine environment?
 - (e) Did both testing or cleaning of the water occur after the incident; and, if so, who undertook the testing or cleaning?
 - (f) If no to (2)(e), why not?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) On 29 February 2016.
 - (b)–(c) Yes.
 - (d) Concrete consists of aggregate and cement. The chemical components in the concrete are lime and oxides, which come from the cement used to manufacture the concrete. Low level concentrations of cement such as that released in this instance have a negligible effect on the marine environment.
 - (e)–(f) As the incident occurred within the port, Fremantle Port Authority was informed within minutes and advised the bridge contractor on what further actions should be undertaken. The bridge contractor and the Fremantle Port Authority's emergency processes were implemented and within 15 minutes spill containment booms were deployed. Once the spill containment booms were in place, oil dispersants were introduced to the spill area in order to remove the diesel from the sea surface. As a precautionary measure Main Roads also employed oil dispersants at Stirling Bridge in case residual diesel made it up to this location. With the deployment of spill containment booms, oil dispersants and the confinement of the concrete within the kibbles, water testing was deemed unnecessary.