

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (SWAN COASTAL PLAIN LAKES) POLICY — REVOCATION

1019. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

So the minister did not consult any community people? What a failure!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members. This is a quick supplementary question.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I have a supplementary question. Why is the minister doing the bidding of the developers of this project? Why has he not raised one question about the environmental failure of this project?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

I do not think a single developer has ever raised revoking that environmental protection policy with me directly. From my recollection, it came out of a discussion with the Environmental Protection Authority. I asked advice from the independent EPA on a range of —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the first time. A quick answer, please.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I asked advice on a range of the EPPs, and that was one of the three —

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: That was one of the three EPPs that the EPA advised me were now superfluous, given subsequent policy developments that have happened in that space, and that could therefore be removed as part of Repeal Week, which happens in this place. The question also referred to the environmental approvals for Roe 8, or the extension of that part of the highway. Again, what is always missed in this debate is that that was a recommendation of the EPA. Due process has been followed and the EPA undertook a rigorous assessment. It lay down conditions and we went through an appeal process, and that appeal process and my subsequent decision resulted in the firming up of a number of the conditions that the EPA had recommended, while acknowledging —

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the third time. Are you finished, minister?

Mr A.P. JACOB: Just one final point, Mr Speaker.

Although I acknowledge that there will be some impact on the local environment by this proposal, after careful consideration and also taking the advice of the EPA into account, we have agreed that these impacts can be managed appropriately, and we have also applied very stringent conditions and offsets—more stringent than the EPA itself recommended.