

EXMOUTH GULF — MARINA EXPANSION STAGE 1

4821. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

With reference to the Exmouth Marina Expansion Stage 1, I ask —

- (1) Will Stage 1 Expansion of Exmouth Marina allow increased vessel use and movement?
- (2) If yes to (1), what level of increased vessel traffic is —
 - (a) expected; and
 - (b) made possible by these expansions?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of other projects within Exmouth Gulf, actual or planned, which could increase vessel traffic within Exmouth Gulf?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the Minister please provide a list of these projects within Exmouth Gulf?
- (5) Has there been opportunity for public consultation regarding Exmouth Marina Stage 1 Expansion?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) If yes to (5), will the Minister please provide details?
- (8) Has the Department of Transport consulted with any cetacean experts to ascertain possible impacts of increased traffic on resting humpback whales utilizing Exmouth Gulf?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?
- (10) If yes to (8), will the Minister please provide details?
- (11) Has the Department of Transport consulted with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ascertain if increased vessel movements will impact on the Exmouth Gulf marine biota?
- (12) If no to (11), why not?
- (13) Has the Department of Transport referred Exmouth Marina Expansion Stage 1 to the EPA?
- (14) If no to (13), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Department of Transport advises:

- (1) Yes
- (2) (a)–(b) Up to 25 vessels but a large number of those vessels are already operating in the Exmouth Gulf and surrounding areas.
- (3) Yes
- (4) Exmouth limestone and MG Kailis Group Pty Ltd Learmonth projects.
- (5) Yes
- (6) Not applicable
- (7) In 2008 when an option to expand the harbour basin was considered, an extensive community consultation process was conducted through the Exmouth Harbour Development Community Consultation.
- (8) No
- (9) The Department of Transport has no control over vessel movements in the Exmouth Gulf.
- (10) Not applicable
- (11) No
- (12) The increased vessel movements are as a result of vessels servicing the resources sector and the Environmental Protection Authority would have been consulted in the approval processes associated with those developments.
- (13) No
- (14) The Department of Transport will consult with the Environmental Protection Authority regarding approvals and conditions prior to any works commencing..