

BARROW ISLAND — ANIMAL DEATHS

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

I refer to reports that hundreds of native animals, many of them on the threatened or endangered list and protected by law, have been killed as a direct result of industrial development on Barrow Island.

- (1) When did the minister become aware of these deaths?
- (2) Why has not one fine been imposed, given that these animals are being trapped, crushed and run over, and the law provides for fines of up to \$10 000 for such killings?
- (3) With six Department of Environment and Conservation reserves officers based on Barrow Island to provide an operational and regulatory presence, how could so many deaths of threatened and endangered animals not have prompted the minister to take action?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

Can I thank the member for Gosnells for the question.

- (1)–(3) The ministerial statement for the Gorgon project requires Chevron to produce a fauna handling and management procedure and to report any marine and fauna deaths to DEC. In consultation with DEC, Chevron has implemented a range of measures to militate against the high number of fauna deaths; and I acknowledge the high number, and it is obviously of concern. Chevron has implemented an awareness campaign, it has done programs on reducing vehicle speed limits, and it has a vehicle monitoring system. There have been deaths. In fact, the deaths are around 1 500. However, if I can use one example, 200 golden bandicoots are estimated to have died, out of a population of 40 000 to 60 000 bandicoots. DEC has suggested that there is no threat to any of the fauna population from the incidences that have occurred.