

STRATEGIC CONSERVATION FUND

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

I have a supplementary question. I do not understand why the minister is delaying collecting this money. At least \$45 million is owing to the government and he cannot set up the fund to collect it. Why is he delaying?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

We do not need a fund to collect that money. The companies have an obligation to deliver it and they will be required to deliver on their obligation. That is the first issue. The second issue is whether those funds are pooled into one larger fund that just delivers all those offsets in globo. That one certainly has merit and that is being explored. All the offsets on the 11 proponents that this has been applied to will be required to be delivered, whichever way we ultimately deliver those offsets.