

PORT GEOGRAPHE — BYPASSING OF SAND AND SEAGRASS

**900. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) Has the annual bypassing of sand and seagrass at Port Geographe been completed?
- (2) If yes to (1), how much did it cost?
- (3) If it has not been completed, when will it be completed and how much will it cost?
- (4) What has been, or is likely to be, the effect of this movement on the beach at Port Geographe, the beach at Wonnerup and the areas adjacent to those beaches on both sides?
- (5) What is the status of the complex negotiations with the administrator and financiers of the Port Geographe project, with the aim of achieving a long-term solution to the coastal amendment issues and, in particular, what are the relevant coastal management issues and what long-term solutions to those issues are being considered?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of her 10-part question. The minister and the Department of Transport advise —

- (1) No. The works have been impacted by storm events, including on 3, 4 and 5 November, which has brought more seagrass to shore.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) It is anticipated that the works will be completed between 10 and 17 November 2012 and cost approximately \$1.5 million.
- (4) Approximately 100 000 cubic metres of trapped seagrass has been removed. This has progressively restored amenity to the beach. Wonnerup beach requires sand for nourishment, and this has been undertaken as part of the bypass works. Seagrass has also been placed there where it is freely able to return to the ocean environment, which is required by existing environmental approvals. There is negligible impact to the beaches adjacent to the work area west of Port Geographe. The beaches adjacent to the worksite east of Point Geographe experience a short-term increase in mobile seagrass and discoloured water as the bypass material disperses through natural processes.
- (5) The existing coastal structures at Port Geographe are causing massive local accumulation of seagrass and coastal erosion. These impacts require expensive and disruptive annual maintenance programs. Until 2009, these were performed by the developer. The developer has moved into administration and liquidation processes have commenced. The government is currently considering the University of Western Australia's study on the seagrass and erosion problems, which has proposed a structural reconfiguration for Port Geographe that would address the existing problems.