

MAGELLAN METALS — CONDITIONS BREACH

188. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. When will the Premier honour the requirement to be a good regulator of environmentally damaging actions in this state?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

This government is a good regulator and it will take positions on important environmental issues through the proper process. This issue is one; the proposed coalmine in Margaret River is another; the proposed development of Straits Resources in Exmouth was another.

Mr F.M. Logan: Will Cockburn Cement be another?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Yes, the issues surrounding Cockburn Cement are serious. We do not in any way disregard environmental issues, particularly where there is contamination in water or on land.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Prove it.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I think we are, but we do not jump at issues like the member for Gosnells might. We will deal with it properly.

Mr M. McGowan: Send another rocket.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: That is a cynical, smart alec response. The member for Rockingham should calm down; he has had a nice lunch and behaved himself fairly well, I thought! He should calm down for a moment. Just think: a letter was sent to the company.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr M. McGowan: You were watching me during my lunch were you? You sat Peter Conran next to me to keep an eye on me did you?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: A letter was sent, yes, expressing a point of view. They have had views from the EPA and from the minister. I do not think it was a coincidence with this last transgression that Magellan has shut down the operation. I think it makes the point.