

WATER QUALITY — LAKE JOONDALUP

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

I refer to the discharge of sewage following the failure of the Ariti Avenue pumping station referred to yesterday by the member for Bassendean.

- (1) Did the minister not just put a few cubic metres of soil and fill over the contaminated area?
- (2) How was the sewage contained so that it could not spill into Lake Joondalup, and how can the minister be sure that that did not occur?
- (3) What action has been taken against the Water Corporation's contractor for allowing the discharge and failing to respect documented pump failure contingency plans?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

- (1)–(3) I thought the Minister for Water gave quite a comprehensive answer to the issue. But if we are going to continue with this particular issue, I advise the member that the Department of Environment and Conservation was advised, as appropriate, on 15 November.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Only advised? So it wasn't involved.

The SPEAKER: Member for Gosnells!

Mr A.P. JACOB: I am about one sentence into my answer, member; let me finish. I will give the member a proper answer, and I will let him know what has happened from the point of view of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Not only was the Department of Environment and Conservation advised, but also the Department of Health and the City of Joondalup were advised. The Department of Environment and Conservation went on to request that the Water Corporation submit a section 72 notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The Department of Environment and Conservation has conducted an investigation into this matter, and no action has resulted from this investigation as it was determined that the pump failure happened as a result of a bushfire, as the member outlined in the earlier question. Water Corp's contractors, using contracted septic trucks to remove the waste, were unable to keep up with the discharge, as the member has outlined, and there was some overflow to the lake, as has been identified.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: No, no, no.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! The Hansard reporter cannot report the minister's answer.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Substantially, the Department of Environment and Conservation has tested the lake and it has tested the waters. I can confirm that, from our end, no adverse health impacts have happened as a result of the incident.