

MUSSEL FARMS IN KING GEORGE SOUND – DREDGING COMPENSATION

1217. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Transport

Regarding the effect of dredging of Albany harbour on mussel farmers in King George Sound, I ask -

- (1) As a condition for renewing or signing leases, have mussel farmers in King George Sound been requested to sign a waiver for compensation?
- (2) If yes to (1), why?
- (3) If the concern is with regard to contaminants, which contaminants?
- (4) Is the Minister concerned about the effect that dispensing contaminants, especially mercury, might have on mussel farms in King George Sound?
- (5) If yes to (4), how is the Minister addressing these concerns?
- (6) If no to (4), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Under new mussel lease agreements, the lessees must indemnify the Albany Port Authority from loss due to a range of activities including dredging.
- (2) It is normal commercial practice to indemnify the lessor in commercial leases.
- (3) The indemnity and cause of loss is not confined to dredging or contaminants.
- (4) There are very low levels of risk to mussel farmers from contaminants arising out of the dredging program.
- (5) Under the proposed dredging method, contaminants are covered in the sea dumping area by up to 5 metres of clean dredge spoil.
- (6) Not applicable