

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK — ROAD FUNDING

2215. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Transport

With regards to roads in the Fitzgerald River National Park, I note that in answer to questions in the Annual Estimates Hearings in the Legislative Council in 2009, you said the following, ‘The economic and expenditure reform committee has agreed to provide \$20 million in state funding for the Bremer Bay-Hopetoun road proposal. The funding will be allocated, as the member has pointed out and as can be seen on page 429 of the budget, as \$10 million in the coming financial year and \$10 million in 2010-11. That money will go towards the upgrading of the road eastwards from Bremer Bay to Point Anne, upgrading Hamersley Drive westwards from Hopetoun to the telegraph track and planning the central section through the national park, referred to as the telegraph track’, and I ask —

- (1) What planning is currently being done for, ‘the central section through the national park, referred to as the telegraph track’?
- (2) Who is doing this planning?
- (3) Is the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) part of this planning process?
- (4) If yes to (3), what is the DEC’s role?
- (5) Has the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee been consulted on this planning?
- (6) If yes to (5), when and what was their response?
- (7) What stage is the planning at?
- (8) In answer to questions in the Annual Estimates Hearings in the Legislative Council in 2009 the Executive Director of the DEC, Kieran McNamara, said the following, ‘The approved management plan does not provide for a road to be constructed through that central core of the park between the two ends and close to the coast’, can you confirm that the approved Fitzgerald River National Park management plan does not provide for a road to be constructed through that central core of the park?
- (9) If yes to (8), why is any planning being carried out for such a road?
- (10) If no to (8), what does the approved management plan say in regards to conserving the integrity of the central core of the park?

Hon SIMON O’BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(10) Insofar as Main Roads is concerned, no planning work is being undertaken by that agency on the "Telegraph Track" through the Fitzgerald River National Park. Issues surrounding the management of the National Park rest with the Department of Environment and Conservation, and details of the application of the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan should be sought from the appropriate Minister.