

MOBILE PHONE TOWER — SALMON HOLES, TORNDIRRUP NATIONAL PARK

557. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the planned mobile phone tower at the notoriously dangerous Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park.

- (1) Does the minister believe that a mobile phone tower should be built at the dangerous fishing spot?
- (2) Does the minister acknowledge the strong community support for a phone tower at Salmon Holes?
- (3) Is the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions reconsidering its opposition to the tower?
- (4) If the much-needed tower is not built, what will happen to the funding that has been allocated through the state regional telecommunications project and the federal mobile black spot program?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The state government is committed to improving mobile communications connectivity at Salmon Holes and in the south coast area generally. The safety of the community is paramount. An emergency phone is in place at Salmon Holes for use by members of the public during an emergency incident.
- (2) I acknowledge there is strong support in sections of the community for improving mobile communications coverage at Salmon Holes.
- (3) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions remains supportive of improved communications services at Salmon Holes and is working with Telstra to deliver a suitable technological solution to supplement the existing services at the site.
- (4) It is my expectation that Telstra in consultation with DBCA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will deliver a suitable solution to improve mobile phone coverage in the area.