

CANAL ROCKS BOAT RAMP — CLOSURE

727. Hon COLIN HOLT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the closure of the Canal Rocks boat ramp.

- (1) What criteria were used to assess the safety of the boat ramp?
- (2) When was the assessment of the boat ramp undertaken?
- (3) Given that the boat ramp has closed, what locations has the department specified for the volunteer marine rescue service to launch from in the event of an emergency?
- (4) Will the minister direct the department to reopen the boat ramp?
- (5) Will the minister allocate funding to upgrade the boat ramp as a matter of urgency?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) The consultant M.P. Rogers and Associates used the Australian standard for boat-launching facilities. Significant risks were identified due to wave exposure. Further, an assessment by RiskCover advised that, given the findings of the engineering study, there appears to be clear and imminent risk of serious injury to users of the Canal Rocks boat ramp and finger jetty.
- (2) The consultant was engaged by the former Liberal–National government in June 2016 and the final report was provided to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on 3 August 2017.
- (3) The boat ramp is not closed. DBCA is consulting with the City of Busselton, Naturaliste Volunteer Marine Rescue and the Department of Transport with a view to maintaining restricted access only to the facility in the case of a marine emergency. A decision regarding the future of the site will be communicated to the public as soon as possible.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The consultant report indicated that without construction of substantial breakwaters, continued use of the facility presents a significant risk to public safety because for the vast majority of the time—estimated at 90 to 95 per cent—it does not comply with the current Australian standard. The estimated cost to construct a breakwater is \$5 million. The construction of a breakwater in this area is not considered viable in the foreseeable future given the difficult financial position facing the state government.