

BEELIAR WETLANDS

1155. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the minister's joint press release of 7 November 2018, entitled "Beelias wetlands to be preserved for future generations".

- (1) Did the minister visit the site between March 2017 and prior to the news release on 7 November?
- (2) Given the minister's objection to massive arterial freight routes in areas called wetlands, is he currently pushing to abandon his government's Murdoch Drive extension and tear up Roe Highway stages 4, 5, 6 and 7; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1) Yes, absolutely; I have. I have been down there as recently as the weekend when I addressed the Conservation Council of Western Australia AGM.

Hon Simon O'Brien: Were you there between March and 7 November?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Yes, absolutely; I have been down there numerous times. Can I say, and I have said—I said it as recently as the weekend—it was an absolute act of bastardry for the last government to do what it did in relation to clearing that site. Having spoken to people who live in that region and who campaigned against the decision of the former government, they are still traumatised by the decision.

Several members interjected.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I said that on the weekend and I will continue to say it!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is providing a response; you might want to listen to it.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Thanks very much, Madam President.

- (2) No; the government is committed to delivering on that project.