

SPOILBANK MARINA — PORT HEDLAND

789. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Regional Development:

Will the minister please provide an update on the status of the proposed Spoilbank marina project in Port Hedland?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

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

As the member is aware, we have put together a task force to try to ensure that we can take this project forward. The member would be aware that we found that the project on the table during the last election, from all parties, made provision for maintenance for only three years. The Town of Port Hedland made it very clear that it would not be in a position to take up the maintenance of that scale of project after the end of that three-year period. That alone would have required an eight per cent increase in the council's rates, and the town believed, understandably, that that would not be acceptable to its community. We have been working now on how we might revise that project. An enormous amount of work has been undertaken, including a very big risk workshop that took place a few months ago. We are hoping, within the next two months, to make a decision on the way forward.