

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM — SHIPWRECKS — ABROLHOS ISLANDS

**1320. Hon KEN BASTON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:**

The co-discoverer of the 1629 *Batavia* and the primary finder of the 1727 *Zeewijk*, Mr Hugh Edwards, believes that in 2009 he and a group of volunteer explorers found and identified an additional historic wreck in the Abrolhos Islands. The Western Australian Museum was informed of the fact.

- (1) Will the minister provide details of any official expeditions, diving or otherwise, since 1978 undertaken by the Western Australian Museum on the outside *Zeewijk* site in an effort to confirm or deny the existence of at least one other wreck?
- (2) If no official search of the outside *Zeewijk* site has occurred, what are the reasons for this?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) In 2009, an inspection of the *Zeewijk* site was undertaken. In 2014, the Western Australian Museum conducted a survey expedition to geo-reference the site. In March 2016, an aerial magnetometer survey of the site was undertaken. In November 2016, the WA Museum conducted an expedition, including remote sensing with a magnetometer and side scan sonar and dives on selected sites. All significant targets, except for one that was in a difficult site to access because of the swell, were investigated and in all cases the targets were either geological or modern.
- (2) Not applicable.