

CORAL BAY MARITIME FACILITY — COMMERCIAL BOATS

2735. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Coral Bay Maritime Facility, and ask —

- (1) How many commercial boats have the department permitted to access the areas of the region of Ningaloo Marine Park in the vicinity of Bills Bay, including the Mauds Sanctuary Zone, Mauds Landing, and surrounding areas of the marine park?
- (2) Given the limited number of boats allowed to access the Mauds Sanctuary Zone was the Department of Conservation and Land Management contacted prior to access being granted?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Did the DEC subsequently provide permission for such boats to have a licence after the department had provided launching permits?
- (5) Do any of these commercial boats have a draught that is more than 1.2 m?
- (6) Can the Department of Transport issue commercial launching permits to boats operating in the Ningaloo Marine Park, Coral Bay, Bills Bay, Mauds Landing and Maud Sanctuary Zone without approval or consultation with the DEC?
- (7) Is there any limit to the number of commercial launching permits that can be granted to boats operating in each of the following —
 - (a) Ningaloo Marine Park;
 - (b) Coral Bay;
 - (c) Bills Bay;
 - (d) Mauds Landing; and
 - (e) Maud Sanctuary Zone?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?
- (9) If yes to (7) —
 - (a) what is the limit; and
 - (b) how is it determined?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Department of Transport (DoT) does not control access to the areas mentioned. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) administers the Ningaloo Marine Park and licences for commercial vessels to operate within areas of the marine park.
DoT administers the Coral Bay Maritime Facility which comprises a public boat launching ramp and service jetty.
- (2) Yes, DoT liaises closely with DEC with respect to commercial vessel access to the Coral Bay Maritime Facility.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes. Following discussion between DoT and DEC, agreement has been reached for up to two commercial vessels to make use of the Coral Bay launching ramp during a trial period commencing 1 July 2010 and expiring on 30 June 2011, subject to the vessels immediately departing the Maud Sanctuary Zone before commencing commercial operations.
At this stage only one of the two identified operators has pursued its initial request and paid the regulated fee to make use of the Coral Bay Maritime Facility.
- (5) No.
- (6) As indicated in part (2) above, DoT liaises closely with DEC before issuing any approvals for commercial vessels to make use of the Coral Bay Maritime Facility.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Not applicable.

- (9) (a) A limit of two T Class commercial vessels has been agreed for access to the Coral Bay Maritime Facility for a trial period between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011, with the Coral Bay facility being the only launching ramp administered by DoT within the marine park.
- (b) Limits are determined either by DEC or in close consultation between DoT and DEC..