

CONTAMINATED SITES — EXMOUTH POWER STATION

682. Hon KEN BASTON to the Minister for Environment:

My question refers to remediation works occurring at the Horizon Power-owned former Exmouth power station located at lot 300 and lot 301 on deposited plan 406333. Can the minister please provide a brief overview of the type of remediation works that have taken place or are taking place at this site?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. In June 2000, 100 cubic metres of contaminated soil from the drainage sump at the former Exmouth power station, considered the primary source of contamination at the site, was excavated and removed for bio-remediation. Following this, several rounds of chemical dosing were undertaken to stimulate the breakdown of remaining hydrocarbons through natural processes.

In August 2000, the drainage sump was dosed with granular fertiliser, and the sump and the triple interceptors were dosed with oxygen-releasing compounds. A trial recovery system to remove hydrocarbons from groundwater was also installed in a monitoring well. In April 2002, contaminated soil was excavated from around the above-ground storage tanks to a depth of 0.8 metres and removed for bio-remediation. Further dosing of the drainage sump with granular fertiliser and oxygen-releasing compounds was undertaken in April and October 2002.

Further remediation of the site is still required, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation expects Horizon Power to assess remedial options and develop a remediation action plan. Groundwater monitoring at the site continues.