

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT — GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

3656. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment

- (1) When will the State Government be responding to the Environmental Protection Authority's *State of the Environment Report: Western Australia 2007*?
- (2) Why has it taken so long for the Barnett Government to respond?
- (3) How many staff (full-time equivalents) have been assigned to assisting the Government to develop its response to the *State of the Environment Report: Western Australia 2007*?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1)-(3) The advice and recommendations contained in the 2007 SoE Report have influenced, (and will continue to influence) many policies, programs and projects across Government. For example, the Liberal-National Government has:
- created a new Office of the Environmental Protection Authority to strengthen the independence of the EPA and its capacity to deal with strategic and emerging environmental issues;
  - committed \$9 million to the development of a Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, which includes a proposed new marine park in Camden Sound to protect the world's largest humpback whale nursery; and
  - announced new regulations to cut phosphorus content in urban fertilisers to help protect our wetlands and waterways.

It should be noted that the previous Government did not respond to the SoE Report in the 15 months between the Report's release in July 2007 and the end of its term in September 2008. That would have been the optimum timeframe to release a formal Government response to a 2007 report.