

LAKE KEPWARI

675. Hon COLIN HOLT to the minister representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade:

I refer to an article in the *Collie Mail* of 8 December 2016 that commits to opening Lake Kepwari within six months.

- (1) When will Lake Kepwari open to the public?
- (2) When will the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions be handed responsibility for the Lake Kepwari project?
- (3) When will access roads be open to the public?
- (4) When will the boat-launching ramp be completed?
- (5) When will basic amenities be completed?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The answer is based on information I received from the Premier.

- (1)–(5) Premier Coal is conducting investigations into Lake Kepwari to ensure its long-term stability and safety. Once these investigations are completed and the area is rehabilitated and surrendered from the company's mining lease, it will be made available for public use.

The government is working closely with Premier Coal on this issue but public safety is, of course, a priority. The opening of Lake Kepwari to the public will continue to be a priority for this government, including the completion of public amenities and facilities, which are fully funded in the budget. I can assure the member that the member for Collie–Preston is very assiduous in pressing the case to me, the Minister for Environment and the Premier.