

WETLANDS CONSERVATION POLICY — RELEASE

2875. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister representing the Minister for Environment

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Court Coalition Government introduced the Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia in 1997?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that this Policy was due to be updated in 2004, after seven years of operation?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that the Environmental Protection Authority, in its 2007 State of the Environment Report, drew specific attention to wetland loss as a serious and ongoing environmental issue for Western Australia?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that the Gallop and Carpenter Governments did a considerable amount of work on updating the Wetlands Conservation Policy and that it was ready for release when the Election was called in 2008?
- (5) Why has the Minister failed to finalise and release the updated Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia?
- (6) When does the Minister intend to release and implement this Policy?

Dr G.G. JACOBS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia has no identified expiry date. I understand that the Wetlands Coordinating Committee as part of its role in coordinating implementation of the policy has been working on a proposed update of the policy.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) I have been advised that work on updating the policy was undertaken during the term of the previous Government.
- (5)-(6) I have not been provided with a proposed update of the Wetlands Conservation Policy. I understand that the Department of Environment and Conservation is assisting the Wetlands Coordinating Committee in the preparation of a proposed update of the policy.