

ALCOA — BAUXITE — SERPENTINE DAM

**307. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:**

I refer the minister to recent media coverage of Alcoa's plans to undertake what Peter Milne, writing for WAtoday on 7 March, described as "riskier mining" near the Serpentine Dam as part of a massive new exploration.

- (1) How many households are dependent upon the Serpentine Dam for their regular water needs?
- (2) What requirements can be put in place to ensure that sediment run-off from areas around the dam do not negatively impact the drinking water therein?
- (3) Is the minister involved in the review of Alcoa's proposal currently underway, presumably being coordinated by her colleague the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; and, if not, why not, given the importance of this natural resource to both local residents and the wider Perth community?

**Hon PIERRE YANG replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Water.

- (1) Serpentine Pipehead Dam receives water from a number of sources including Serpentine Main Dam. Serpentine Pipehead Dam then directly supplies, together with other sources, around 410 000 households in Perth in the system's normal configuration.
- (2)–(3) The Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade, as lead minister for Alcoa's mining management plan, will seek concurrence from both the Minister for Water and Minister for Environment that adequate consultation has occurred prior to any MMP approval. Avoidance and reduction of risks associated with sediment run-off is a key issue addressed through that process. Protecting Perth's drinking water quality and supply is paramount for government and we will continue to work with Alcoa to ensure satisfactory measures are in place. The state government and WA public have high expectations that Alcoa meets its environmental obligations.