

ENVIRONMENT — WETLANDS — RAMSAR CONVENTION

1208. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Minister's responses to questions on notice 785 and 1005, and I ask:

- (a) is unanimous support of stakeholders required for every Ramsar nomination;
- (b) were stakeholders with vested financial interests permitted to veto the potential Ramsar nominations for Lake MacLeod and the Tributaries of the lower Blackwood;
- (c) how many stakeholders were consulted and how many submissions were received concerning the potential Ramsar nomination of the Tributaries of the Lower Blackwood;
- (d) how many of the submissions referred to in were supportive of the nomination and how many were opposed to it;
- (e) why did the Government only consult local stakeholders and those with vested financial interests in the area proposed for nomination;
- (f) why wasn't the broader WA community invited to comment on both proposed nominations as they concern matters of national and international importance;
- (g) will the Minister provide copies of the Ramsar Information Sheets prepared for public consultation for Lake MacLeod and the Tributaries of the Lower Blackwood;
- (h) considering the time elapsed since the previous consultation and the broad scientific support for these nominations, are there any plans for further consultation that is more inclusive of the WA community; and
- (i) if no to (h), why not?

Hon Darren West replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) No.
- (c) Targeted consultation was undertaken with 21 individuals or organisations on the preparation of the Ecological Character Description for the Tributaries of the Lower Blackwood River.
- (d) The targeted consultation was to obtain technical information as part of development of the Ecological Character Description.
- (e) The proposed nomination of the Tributaries of the Lower Blackwood River did not proceed to formal consultation.
- (f) The broader WA community was not formally consulted about either proposed nomination, as work on the nominations did not proceed.
- (g) The Ramsar Information Sheets were not prepared for the purpose of public consultation and remain in draft form until such time as the Ramsar Site Nomination is considered by the Australian Government.
- (h) No.
- (i) There are currently no plans to further progress Ramsar nominations for Lake McLeod and the Tributaries of the Lower Blackwood River.