

Draft published as  
NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS,  
*The Hansard, 7 June 1995*

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**QUESTION REVISED FROM 1991 - ON STATE RAIL BUNGLES AT SCARBOROUGH/ WOMBARRA BEFORE TUNNEL IDEA**

**Mr Jones to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Did the State Rail Authority block drainage culverts on the main Illawarra line in 1982-85?

If so, did this occur as a result of constructing access roads with bulldozers during electrification of the line?

Why did the SRA not re-open these blocked culverts upon completion of roadwork and electrification activities?

Was loss of life at Coledale in 1988 linked in any way to poor maintenance of drainage culverts?

Has the SRA adopted an economic rationalist policy cutting track maintenance staff along this line?

Have communities at Scarborough/Wombarra suffered extensive washouts and property damage on three occasions since 1985 as a direct result of SRA culvert blockages?

Was multi-million dollar drainage engineering on the Illawarra line undertaken by the SRA in 1989-90?

Did these engineering works divert and combine natural sub-escarpment stream courses?

Did this action increase flow velocities of water courses?

Did those works contravene current SPCC drainage guidelines intended to prevent flash flooding?

Did the works contravene the PWD's Flood Plain Management Policy?

Were these drainage diversions licensed under the Clean Waters Act?

If so, on what date was the license granted?

Did Wollongong Council request closure of these SRA drainage works?

Was Council's request based on concern for resident safety?

Were improvised baffle plates and ground overflow channels fitted by the SRA?

Was this baffling and ground overflow channel construction of an ad hoc nature?

Were these activities undertaken against the advice of SRA hydrological consultants?

Which SRA engineer responsible for this ad hoc work?

Does the officer still hold a position in the SRA?

If so, what position is that?

Did the SRA advise Northern Illawarra residents of potential flood danger when it closed off/ baffled engineering drainage works in 1990?

If not, why not?

Was flooding and property damage experienced by Scarborough/ Wombarra communities in June 1991 in any way related to SRA water diversion activities?

Is Scarborough/Wombarra an area of known ecological fragility?

Is it a fact that the SRA undertook engineering works in 1989-90 to reorganise drainage of the line without prior Environmental Impact Assessment?

Was an EIS for Culvert Amplification undertaken after the works?

If so, how much did this 'after the fact' EIS cost taxpayers of NSW?

Were closed-off SRA Culvert Amplification works directly linked to flood damage of Scarborough/Wombarra homes in June 1991?

Is the Minister aware of new flood damage suffered by residents on 17/5/95 downstream of SRA Culvert Amplification works on Reces Creek, Wombarra?

Will the SRA pay compensation to local residents for property losses caused by 1989-90 SRA drainage works?

Who was the General Manager of City Rail when these works were carried out?

Does the officer currently hold a position in the SRA?

If so, what position?

Will the Minister arrange for an independent performance audit of the SRA by the Office of the Auditor General?

## **REPEAT OF JONES'S 1994 QUESTION CONCERNING CLOSED/BAFFLED SRA CULVERTS**

### **Mr Jones to ask the The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

In his answer to my question of 3-4 December 1991 (No:291, 1 & 2 ) the Minister for Local Government told the House that SRA Culvert Amplification constructions had to be closed/baffled because "they would have a severe impact on downstream properties".

In his answer to my question 3-4 December 1991 (No:290, 8,9 & 10) the Minister for Transport told the house that the above SRA drainage works "did not alter drainage flows because the SRA installed baffles on culverts to maintain the status quo".

In his answer to my question 3-4 December 1991 (No:300, 12) the Minister for Transport told the House "the SRA has advised that embankment collapse and flooding of homes (at Scarborough/Wombarra) was caused by the baffles...which prevented water flowing through its natural drainage path."

Can the new Minister advise which of these contradictory statements is correct?

Are these baffle plates still diverting natural flows?

Will the Minister direct the SRA to adjust the culvert openings at Creek G, Wombarra, as a matter of public safety?

## **QUESTION ON FAILURE OF SRA TO ADDRESS SOURCE OF FLOODS ON DISUSED KCC COLLIERY**

**Mr Jones to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Did coal waste residue and other pit top debris from the South Clifton Colliery site wash on to the Illawarra rail corridor during rains June in 1991?

Has the SRA undertaken engineering works at Wombarra in order to manage downstream movement of mine waste residues?

Has NSW taxpayers money been used on engineering works dedicated to this function?

If so, how much has been spent on SRA works in the vicinity of the disused South Clifton Colliery?

Has the SRA requested mine owners Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) to remove unstable coal waste residue upstream of the rail corridor?

Has the SRA sought compensation from Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) for any flood damages to the Illawarra rail corridor in recent years?

Did an SRA hydrological consultant involved in production of the 1991 EIS for Culvert Amplification inform a public meeting at Wombarra in June 1991 that his firm was instructed by the SRA not to make assessment of conditions on mine land above the rail corridor?

If so, was this instruction in response to legal advice from SRA's solicitors Freehill, Hollingdale and Page?

Will the Minister table this advice?

Did the EIS for Culvert Amplification disregard conditions on disused mine lands upstream of the rail corridor and town?

Was rail embankment collapse and flooding of homes at Wombarra in June 1991 a result of overflow from a culvert blocked by pit-top debris from the mine?

Has SRA approached Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) to rehabilitate this mine site?

If so, what was the mining company response to this request?

Is the SRA presently considering a new drainage option for Scarborough/Wombarra?

What form of flood mitigation solution is this?

How much would the option cost?

Who would pay for this proposal?

Will Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) contribute to construction costs?

If not, why not?

## **QUESTION ON SAFETY OF SRA'S PROPOSED WOMBARRA DRAINAGE TUNNEL/OUTFALL**

**Dr MacDonald to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Has a Snowy Mountains type drainage tunnel with ocean outfall been proposed by the SRA for Scarborough/Wombarra?

If so, what are the dimensions of this proposed tunnel in metres?

What is the above ground length in kilometres?

How deep underground would the proposed tunnel be built?

Are explosives used in construction of this type of tunnel?

Does the proposal involve extensive under ground work on an ecologically fragile coast?

Would the proposed tunnel cross Scarborough/Wombarra coal seams?

Are these coal measures known to emit methane and carbon-monoxide gas?

Can the SRA guarantee safety of workers involved in tunnel construction activities in this locality?

Can the SRA guarantee safety of Scarborough/Wombarra homes situated above the proposed tunnel easement?

Is land to the west upstream of the tunnel intake known to be geologically unstable?

How close in metres is the Wombarra Landslide Zone from the intake shaft of the proposed tunnel?

Would open drainage channels lead to the tunnel entrance?

How close in metres are these channels from the Wombarra Landslide Zone?

Is the South Clifton Colliery west upstream of the proposed tunnel intake fully remediated?

Are tunnel intake channels at any risk of being blocked by mine debris?

Did parts of this area at Wombarra collapse on to the rail corridor during rains in June 1991?

Was that collapse in any way connected with debris blocking SRA drainage culverts?

Did waters displaced by that culvert blockage run south and demolish the Illawarra rail line at Wombarra Station in June 1991?

Did waters from that culvert blockage cause serious flooding to Scarborough/ Wombarra homes in June 1991?

Do Scarborough/Wombarra residents fear a repeat of this incident if the proposed tunnel intake became blocked?

Would the proposed tunnel combine the waters of 10 smaller streams together at one point?

Has an independent hydrologist and risks engineer pointed out that creeks in the area have not been gauged to provide quantitative data on peak flood runoff levels?

Does the risk engineer's report indicate that the amount of water to be carried by the tunnel could be twice as much as SRA estimates or half as much?

What is the Minister's legal advice on this problem?

What engineering design features would allow the tunnel to operate with 50% more water?

Will the Minister table these engineering designs?

Does the SRA have contingency plans to deal with operational failure at the intake shaft?

Is the Minister aware that the Wombarra Landslide Zone above the intake is moving approx 7 inches pa in a south easterly direction?

Has the Minister viewed recent photographic evidence of that movement?

Will the Minister table 1994 geotechnical data on the current rate of this land movement?

Is tunnel construction expected to commence before this slip zone has been stabilised?

What is the Minister's legal advice on that?

Has the SRA refused to make Tunnel Safety Plans available to potentially affected Scarborough/Wombarra residents downstream of the Wombarra Landslide Zone?

Has the SRA carried out an assessment of geotechnical stability of the proposed tunnel under major storm conditions?

If so, would the Minister table that report?

If not, why not?

Does the proposed tunnel cross a major east-west fault line known as the Scarborough Fault?

Does it cross a second north-south fault line near the proposed outfall at Scarborough Headland?

Could the main coast road Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Scarborough Headland be undermined by the proposed tunnel?

Has the RTA been asked by SRA to examine this possibility?

Is Scarborough Headland known to be geologically unstable?

Has a house and other buildings collapsed into the sea from this Headland?

Is it a fact that the energy dissipator to be constructed inside the tunnel outfall at Scarborough Headland would vibrate at 45,000 horsepower in a major storm event?

What effect will this have on homes built above the proposed tunnel?

Could children be put at risk by an ocean outfall situated above their rockpool play area?

## **QUESTION ON SRA FAILURE TO FULLY ASSESS REHABILITATION OPTION**

### **Mr Jones to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Was the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation an author of the Wombarra Drainage Project EIS?

Are SMEC design engineers for the proposed SRA tunnel?

Does this arrangement favour objective evaluation?

Can the Minister assure the House that SMEC has no conflict of interest?

Did the SRA target 10 Scarborough/Wombarra homes for resumption in an engineering drainage proposal offered as alternative to the Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

If so, how many families would have been displaced?

Was this threat of re-location used by the SRA to persuade Scarborough/Wombarra residents to accept the tunnel as best drainage solution?

Did this process divide the Scarborough/Wombarra community over the merits of the SRA tunnel proposal?

Is current community support for the tunnel approx 15%?

Is current community opposition to the tunnel approx 85%?

Did SRA Community Consultation Reports show strong support for a mine rehabilitation based flood control solution as early as 1990?

Would this option minimise flood impacts by keeping sub-escarpment rainforest stream flows separate?

Why was this option not fully examined by the SRA, with input from ecologists and geologists in addition to engineers?

Did an internationally renowned landscape restorationist visit Scarborough/ Wombarra in 1994?

Did this expert endorse the need for mine and stream rehabilitation at South Clifton Colliery?

Could a rehabilitation option be paid for under provisions of Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA)'s Coal Lease 587 ?

Does this lease provide for \$310,000 per annum site expenditure or more at the discretion of the Minister for Mineral Resources?

Was the larger Yellow Rock Colliery further south rehabilitated by Shell for less than \$1 million?

How long would rehabilitation of South Clifton Colliery take to complete?

How long is proposed tunnel construction expected to take?

#### **QUESTION ON LIABILITY FOR OPERATIONAL FAILURE OF TUNNEL**

**Mr Jones to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Has SRA selected Transfield Constructions to build the proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

Has SRA advised Transfield of unstable conditions on mine lands upstream of the proposed tunnel intake shaft?

Who would be liable in the event of operational failure of the tunnel?

Does the Minister have the assurance of Treasury that the State Government will make good any future liabilities concerning the proposed tunnel?

What insurance arrangements have been entered into by the SRA?

Who is the Insurer?

What insurance arrangements have been entered into by Transfield?

Who is the Insurer?

Has the SRA offered Scarborough/Wombarra residents written guarantees of compensation for possible damages that might arise as a result of tunnel construction?

If not, why not?

Has the SRA offered written guarantees of compensation for possible damages arising as a result of operational failure of the tunnel?

If not, why not?

What Authority is to assume responsibility for maintenance of the proposed Wombarra Drainage tunnel?

Is this arrangement in Contract form?

Will the Minister table this Contract?

Does the Contract for the proposed tunnel resemble a Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Scheme?

What flood mitigation solution is proposed for Scarborough/Wombarra after 50 year life of the tunnel has ended?

How will tunnel infrastructure be maintained after the year 2045?

Has this been costed by the SRA?

Would the Minister please inform the House how much money was donated to the ALP by Transfield Constructions between 1992-94?

#### **QUESTION ON SRA TUNNEL CONTRACT WITH TRANSFIELD**

**Dr MacDonald to ask The Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

In line with the principle of open government, will the Minister table a copy of Contracts for the proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel as signed by the SRA and Transfield Constructions?

If not, why not?

Is the Wombarra Tunnel Contract a Fixed Price Contract?

Is the Contract a Do and Charge Contract?

Is there any specific clause in the contract relating to a penalty payable should the contract be terminated?

Has the Minister given SRA liability for compensation as the reason why the tunnel must go ahead?

Would not the penalty be merely the sum of the contractors expenses to date, plus an estimate of loss of anticipated profit?

If not, how is the penalty calculated?

How much is the penalty for termination of the tunnel contract expected to be?

Is this less than the \$7 -30 million cost of construction of the tunnel?

Have maintenance costs been factored into the cost of the tunnel?

#### **QUESTION ON SRA ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES**

**Mr Cohen to ask the Hon Brian Langton, Minister for Transport**

Has the SRA's Environmental Code of Practice, drafted in 1990 been implemented for drainage works on the Illawarra line?

How many people are employed in the SRA's Environmental Section?

What has been the Environmental Section's annual Budget each year since 1991?

Were tenders for an Environmental Education program withdrawn by SRA's Environment Section in 1994?

If so, why?

#### **QUESTION ON FAILURE OF MINISTRY OF MINERAL RESOURCES TO ACT**

**Dr MacDonald to ask The Hon Robert Martin, Minister for Mineral Resources**

What State Government Authority gave consent for use of the South Clifton Colliery site above Wombarra township in the Illawarra as a coal dump in the early 1980s?

On what date was consent given?

What Local Government Authority gave consent for use of the South Clifton Colliery site above Wombarra as a coal dump in the early 1980s?

On what date was consent given?

Is the Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) owned South Clifton Colliery now closed?

Does Coal Lease 587 require site restoration to its original condition on completion of activities?

If so, has all coal wash residue been removed from the site?

Is the site unstable?

If so, is it being monitored?

Have water courses on site been adequately restored?

Have dams on site been adequately restored?

Can the Minister assure the House that flood waters are not passing from the mine on to adjoining lands?

If not, will the Minister activate expenditure requirements of Coal Lease 587 as a matter of urgency?

## **QUESTION ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM KCC MINE LAND**

**Mr Cohen to ask The Hon Pam Allan, Minister for the Environment**

Does the Maddens Plains coal emplacement affect water falls off the Illawarra Escarpment?

Is rain forest dying out as a result of coal residues washed down over the escarpment?

Has the coal emplacement at Maddens Plains resulted in drainage diversions?

If so, on what date were these catchment changes introduced?

Was Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) responsible for these catchment changes?

If not, what coal mining company was responsible?

Does the now disused South Clifton Colliery at Scarborough/Wombarra impact in any way on sub-escarpment rain forest growth to north and west?

Is this area designated for protection under the Illawarra Escarpment Park proposal?

Have coal emplacement residues at South Clifton Colliery changed the course of sub-escarpment stream flows?

Do stream diversions on the mine pose a drainage nuisance to the Illawarra rail corridor below it?

Is 44% of flood waters on the mine site a result of creek diversions?

Do disused water storage dams on the mine pose a drainage nuisance to the rail?

Did a Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) officer state the site is responsible for 50% of flood problems at Scarborough/Wombarra on ABC Radio National 24/ 8/94.

Do drainage diversions on the mine threaten lives and private property downstream at Scarborough/ Wombarra?

What State Government Authority gave consent for drainage diversions at South Clifton Colliery?

On what date was consent given?

What Local Government Authority gave consent for water course diversions at South Clifton Colliery?

On what date was consent given?

Are there substances in coal residues that affect soil toxicity?

Are there substances in coal residues that could affect the marine eco-systems at the proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel outfall?

If so, what are these substances?

Is Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA) monitoring emissions of these wastes in stream waters leaving the mine site?

If so, what is the result of this measurement?

Is the EPA monitoring coal residues in waters crossing state and private lands downstream of the disused South Clifton Colliery at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Did the coal emplacement site above Wombarra township develop fissures in 1991?

Did these fissure leak methane and carbon-monoxide gas?

Do these emissions indicate underground combustion at South Clifton Colliery?

Are these gas fissures some 500 metres to the west of SRA's proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel intake shaft?



Is the EPA aware of these gas emissions?

Is the Minister for Mineral Resources aware of the statutory requirements for remediation contained in Coal Lease 587?

Will the Minister for the Environment ensure that lease requirements for rehabilitation of water courses are undertaken immediately?

Will the Minister ensure that lease requirements for waste removal from the site are undertaken immediately?

Will the Minister initiate talks between Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA), the local community, and SRA concerning all appropriate rehabilitation measures as a matter of urgency?

Who is the environmental engineer at Kembla Coal and Coke?

Do penalties attach to failure of mine officials to comply with the Environmental Offences and Penalties Act (1989)?

What are these penalties?

### **QUESTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED SRA TUNNEL**

#### **Mr Cohen to ask The Hon Pam Allan, Minister for the Environment**

Does the SRA plan to partly demolish Scarborough Beach Headland to build the proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

Does this project involve a form of ocean outfall?

Is this SRA drainage tunnel and outfall being built to convey flood waters from an unrehabilitated mine at South Clifton Colliery directly to the coast?

Will the Minister raise the matter with the Minister for Mineral Resources?

Will the Minister raise the matter with the Minister for Transport?

Does SRA propose to cut Scarborough Headland back by some 16 metres to the west?

Would tidal patterns at Scarborough Beach be affected by removal of the Headland?

Would sand budgets be affected with resulting coastal erosion?

Is it a fact that removal of the Headland was not addressed in SRA's Wombarra Drainage Project EIS?

Does this invalidate the Determination of that EIS?

Did the EIS consider marine pollution from coal mine residues deposited on to Scarborough Beach?

If not, does this invalidate the EIS?

Is it a fact that the consultant responsible for the EIS marine ecology section did not personally visit Scarborough/Wombarra?

Does the SRA propose to construct an access road along Scarborough Beach for tunnel construction purposes?

Does the SRA propose to concrete over the natural rock pool play area below the Headland for use as a truck turning facility?

What effect would regular movements of a construction bombardier along Scarborough Beach have on local flora and fauna?

Does this SRA proposal contradict the State Government's commitment to Coastal Protection?

Will the Minister intercede with the Minister for Planning to halt further work on the Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

Will the Minister request the Minister for Planning to investigate an environmentally sound alternative flood mitigation solution as a matter of urgency?

## **QUESTION ON COASTAL GEOLOGY AND IMPACTS OF SRA TUNNEL**

### **Mr Cohen to ask The Hon Pam Allan, Minister for the Environment**

What would be the effect on rainforest fauna from loss of stream flows after construction of SRA's proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

What would be the effect of diminished stream flows on rainforest flora?

Would long term drying out of the Scarborough/Wombarra coastal strip affect geological stability?

Would the underground water table be affected by the proposed tunnel?

Does SRA plan to pump under ground water out through natural creeks during tunneling?

Is this water is acid or saline?

What effect could acid water flows have on local stream ecology?

Could underground watertable changes effect homes in the area through subsidence?

Can SRA guarantee that foundations will not crack as a result of subsidence from lowered under ground water levels?

Did this occur in suburbs south of Sydney following the construction of Water Board sewer tunnels?

Could underground water removal during tunneling result in sink holes?

Could a salt water intrusion spoil underground aquifers as a result of lowered pressure following any SRA pump out?

Could this further deteriorate the Illawarra coast?

## **QUESTION ON COSTING OF THE SRA'S PROPOSED WOMBARRA TUNNEL**

### **Dr MacDonald to ask the The Hon Michael Egan, Treasurer of NSW**

Is the Treasurer aware of the SRA proposal to construct a \$7-30 million concrete Drainage Tunnel on the Illawarra Coast at Wombarra?

Does the Treasurer appreciate that this tunnel was conceived to deal with flood water runoff from the disused South Clifton Colliery?

Has the Treasurer been informed that Coal Lease 587 requires full rehabilitation of that site including drainage and waste removal?

Is the Treasurer advised that Lease 587 also provides for an annual expenditure of \$310,000 or more at the discretion of the Minister for Mineral Resources?

Can the Treasurer explain why public funds are being used to solve a flood problem when private moneys are available for that purpose?

Has the Tunnel proposal been fully costed by the SRA?

Is the Trasurer aware of a recent tunnel collapse at Heathrow with blow out in \$10 millions?

How is the economy of the tunnel proposal justified by Treasury?

Why does the Wombarra Drainage Project EIS contain no economic analysis of options as required by Treasury for capital works in excess of half a million dollars?

Why does the same EIS contain no risk anlaysis as required by the State Government's Assets Management Policy?

Has the SRA refused to accept responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel during its 50 year life?

Has Wollongong Council refused to accept responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the tunnel?

Who has agreed to be responsible for monitoring and maintenance?

How would this be financed?

Will NSW taxpayers bear the cost?

Is the Treasurer aware of secondments from the Office of the Auditor General to the SRA?

Could this 'revolving door situation' compromise the independence of SRA audits undertaken by the Office of the Auditor General?

## **QUESTION ON PLANNING PROCEDURES USED FOR SRA TUNNEL OPTION**

### **Mr Jones to ask The Hon Craig Knowles, Minister for Planning**

Is the Minister aware that the SRA's proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel conflicts with requirements of the Water Act 1912?

Is he aware that the SRA proposal conflicts with the Clean Waters Act 1970?

Is he aware that the SRA proposal conflicts with the Water Administration Act 1986?

Is he aware that the SRA proposal conflicts with directives of the NSW Flood Plain Management Policy?

Does the SRA tunnel proposal constitute a third series of catchment interferences to sub-escarpment streams at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Why has CALM not applied Catchment Management Principles to flood mitigation at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Why is the PWD's Flood Plain Management Branch not involved flood mitigation at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Can the Minister advise on efforts to coordinate these bodies?

Will the Minister use his planning powers to require a Total Catchment Management Study for Scarborough /Wombarra as a matter of urgency?

Will the Minister make available a special one off grant for this purpose?

Will the Minister make available a further grant to carry out urgent interim flood relief measures at Scarborough/Wombarra - including

- clearing out debris from water courses
- emptying and reinforcement of disused dams
- redirection of northern streams to near original courses
- re-opening SRA culvert baffle plates?

Is it a fact that individual landholders in the Northern Illawarra may be liable for costs of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for drainage improvements to natural creeks crossing their properties as a result of 1990 SRA drainage culvert constructions?

What is State Government policy regarding who pays for drainage modifications on private property made necessary by government activities affecting natural stream flows?

What is State Government policy regarding who pays for drainage modifications on state/private property made necessary by company activities affecting natural stream flows?

Is the Minister aware of possible damage to the Illawarra Coast from the SRA's proposed Wombarra Drainage Tunnel?

Does this include fragile sub-escarpment coastal rainforest at Wombarra?

Will the tunnel deposit acid sulphate soils from South Clifton Colliery at Scarborough Beach Headland?

Will the Minister activate the State Government's Coastal Protection Policy at Scarborough/Wombarra immediately?

Will the Minister review the situation in NSW whereby the same Authority may be both Proponent of an EIS and

Determining Authority?

## **QUESTION ON WOLLONGONG COUNCIL AND ISSUE OF MINE REGULATION**

### **Mr Jones to ask The Hon Ernest Page, Minister for Local Government**

Has Wollongong Council in principle accepted ownership of the disused South Clifton Colliery from Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA)?

Will remediation of the land now fall to rate payers at Scarborough /Wombarra?

Was this transfer proposal a 'fair trade' swap in exchange for fast track approval of a real estate subdivision on Kembla Coal and Coke lands at Clifton?

Are these lands immediately above the Illawarra rail line?

Will there be drainage impacts on the rail line at Clifton?

Does Wollongong Council have geotechnical reports on unstable lands near to the proposed SRA tunnel works at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Will the Minister table these reports for public inspection?

Are the two dams on the South Clifton Colliery site licensed by Wollongong Council?

Will the Minister table copies of these two licences?

If not, why not?

Are these dams maintained to structural adequacy by Kembla Coal and Coke (CRA)?

Did overflow from these dams flood the Illawarra line and homes at Scarborough/Wombarra in June 1991?

Did Wollongong Council make independent hydrological assessment of conditions at Scarborough/Wombarra when it told SRA to close-off (baffle) 1989-90 Culvert Amplification works?

Did Council advise Scarborough/Wombarra residents of potential flood risks resulting from such closure?

Which officer at Wollongong Council was responsible for the decision to close-off Culvert Amplification works?

Did the Group General Manager of City Rail threaten the Mayor of Wollongong Council with legal action in order to ensure passage of the Wombarra Drainage Tunnel D/A through Council on 14 March 1993?

Will the Minister call for a performance audit of Wollongong Council Planning Department to be carried out by the Office of the Auditor General?

## **QUESTION ON WOLLONGONG COUNCIL PLANNING PRACTICES**

### **Mr Cohen to ask The Hon Ernest Page, Minister for Local Government**

Does runoff from the disused South Clifton Colliery pose a threat to lives and property at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Is Wollongong Council continuing to approve land subdivision adjacent to the unstable Illawarra rail corridor at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Is Council continuing to approve land subdivision on filled or diverted water courses in the locality?

Will the Minister require Wollongong Council to put a moratorium on any further land subdivision at Scarborough/Wombarra?

Will the State Government seek a performance audit of the Planning Department at Wollongong Council?

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