Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 19/06/2009 Output: 3.0 - Natural

Resources

Sub Output: 3.3 - Water

Resources

Subject: Water drilling - safety management - audit - cost

From:Ms Kezia Purick to Hon Alison Anderson Natural Resources Environment and Heritage

8-18

Question: Does the department have a safety management system for people that

work in the field in regards to water drilling work, when was it last

independently audited, by whom and at what cost?

Answer:

Answered On:

Answer: A technical services procedures manual exists within the Department for

hydrographic field work.

It includes:

- · communication protocols for staff in the field e.g. twice daily communication with the office to confirm whereabouts and status;
- · radio and satellite phone use procedures;
- · emergency contact details;
- · search and rescue procedures;
- · use of epirbs (emergency position indicating rescue beacons);
- · firearms use; and
- · remote area protocols and responsibilities.

In addition, Hydrographic adopt a compulsory (non written) procedure of call in for all staff before and after helicopter flying or boat work. A supervisor is nominated as contact for staff when they are working weekends and is supposedly available 24x7

The safety management system procedures manual is used by all Water Drilling staff as well as Hydrological staff. When the procedures manual was created Hydrographic and Drilling were combined in the one Branch however, now they are separate units they both still use the same manual.

To date, the safety management procedures manual has not been audited.