

permitted, and the application was displayed.

The minister mentioned 5 directions to the Planning Authority and said that he had tabled 3. What were the other 2?

Mr PALMER: No, 5 directions were given in relation to 3 sites.

Ms MARTIN: What allocations are there for a plan of management for Darwin Harbour and the plan of management for Beagle Gulf Marine Park?

Mr PALMER: There is no specific allocation to develop a new plan of management for Darwin Harbour. Management of Darwin Harbour is conducted by a range of government agencies as summarised in the report *Managing Darwin Harbour and Its Catchment: Summary of NT Government Activities 1997*. I will table that for the member if she so desires.

Ms Martin: I have it.

Mr PALMER: Beagle Gulf Marine Park is a matter for the Minister for Parks and Wildlife. He will be only too pleased to answer the question.

Ms MARTIN: The minister said that Darwin Harbour is managed by a range of government agencies. Consider the environmental damage that occurred at Dundee Beach. A range of government agencies discussed what had been done and everyone said that there had been breaches of various acts. In the end, no action was taken because nobody could decide what should be done. This is what the minister is allowing to happen by having the management of Darwin Harbour come under a variety of agencies. Each agency does not necessarily work easily with every other. Sometimes there are competing points of view and sometimes there are competing objectives. This is a prime example of how, at times, it is very difficult for government agencies to work together. That is why it is necessary to have a plan of management, to ensure they are able to work together. I urge the minister to formalise the arrangement. I know of government departments that do not even speak to each other, let alone the ministers.

Mr PALMER: Unlike the 7 individuals in the opposition, the 30 or so government agencies and instrumentalities do work as a team. They work very closely together. I am sure they cooperate closely on the management, care and control of Darwin Harbour. I do not know one person in government who is not keenly interested in the ongoing wellbeing of our magnificent harbour. As Stokes said, it can take 1000 ships of the line and is truly a magnificent watercourse.

As for Dundee Beach, the member persists in perpetuating this myth that no action was taken. Indeed, remedial action was taken ...

Ms Martin: How long did it take?

Mr PALMER: It was taken very quickly. I am advised that there has been very little detrimental effect to that estuarine swamp.

Ms Martin: Estuarine swamp!

Mr PALMER: How else would anyone describe the environment there? It is not a very attractive place.

Mr TOYNE: Unless there are some absolutely exceptional individuals involved across those agencies, the minister is flying in the face of a very large body of world research in public administration in terms of bureaucratic structures being able to work side by side with each other effectively. There are very few solid examples of that degree of coordination being achieved.

Ms MARTIN: What is the allocation to implement the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Bill*? What staff or other resources are required? I am very disappointed that that bill did not get up at the last sittings of parliament, as I was led to believe it would. Commitments were given that the legislation would be up and running as soon as possible. What is the time frame now?

Mr PALMER: It is on the Notice Paper, isn't it?

Ms MARTIN: With all due deference to the minister, the *Pastoral Lands Amendment Bill* has been on the Notice Paper since I have been a member here - 3 years to this day, 17 June.

Mr Palmer: You do not expect it to be passed?

Ms MARTIN: I am saying that some bills stay on the Notice Paper forever. Let us have a time frame.

Mr PALMER: I expect the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Bill* to be passed some time this year. There is no allocation in the 1998-99 budget for its implementation. However, following its passage and commencement, we will assess our needs and apply resources as required, perhaps seeking a further allocation in the following financial year.

Ms MARTIN: Some assessment must have been done at this stage because the bill gives a fair indication of how many more staff will be needed.