



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## **No closer to solution for Detention River erosion solution**

### **Media Release**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest has expressed frustration at a lack of progress on the issue of soil erosion at Detention River, despite pledges of action and an investigation going as far back as March this year.

Ms Forrest said in the period since the State Government pledged to take action on Detention River at Hellyer Beach about the only thing that appears to have occurred is the soil erosion has got worse.

“We were told that a report by expert scientist Prof. Ellison into the issue of soil erosion at Detention River which looked at both short and long term solutions would be ready by April this year,” Ms Forrest said.

“But here we are, already into July and it is still not expected until the middle of this month.

“Further to this, a pledge by Crown Lands to erect signs and barriers to prevent damage at Detention River has still not occurred.”

Ms Forrest pressed the Environment Minister, David O’Byrne on the issue during Legislative Council State budget estimates hearings but said she had come out of the hearings with more questions than answers.

“In spite of the urgent nature of the problem, no time frame was given to Prof Ellison,” Ms Forrest said.

“On the surface it would appear the report has no start or finish, but in the meantime the erosion issue continues at Detention River.”

Ms Forrest said given the timing of the undertakings to investigate being so close to this year’s state election, she suspects it was done to keep people happy until the election was over.

“Well the election has been held and we now have a Government, so it is time to replace talk with action, firstly a commitment to a short term emergency action and then the implementation of a long term plan,” Ms Forrest said.

“It’s not as if the community is calling on the Government to do anything more than what they promised they would do.”

**ENDS**

**For further information: Ruth Forrest 0419 879 524**