

Peron Dunes – Buggy Race Impact on Threatened Shore Bird Breeding

Ms BADGER question to MINISTER for PARKS

Honourable Speaker, my question is from constituents in St Helens. Minister, Parks renewed the Peron Dunes buggy race event permit for five more years. The race is held at the exact time of year that Hooded Plovers and Fairy Terns, both threatened species, are breeding. Experts have been sounding the alarm for years. This event disrupts nesting and causes these threatened birds to abandon the site, a fact that should have been evident in the Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) process. Is it the case that the RAA was in fact not completed before the event permit was granted? Minister, please provide the dates that both the RAA and the event permit were completed. And why allow an event in the conservation area that risks already threatened species? Will you at least take the bare minimum action to reschedule the event outside of the shore bird breeding season?