



# Cash fears for Sound

## Minister hints polluters might pay for checks

By **YVONNE THOMPSON**

THE Cockburn Sound Management Council is disappointed and extremely worried that its funding for the next financial year has been dramatically reduced, according to the chairwoman, Professor Kateryna Longley.

The management council comes under the umbrella of the Department of Environment and Conservation and Environment Minister David Templeman has flagged the possibility that pollution emitters might have to cough up for monitoring Cockburn Sound.

Kwinana Industries Council wants a State Government guarantee the environmental monitoring of Cockburn Sound will be funded.

Industries council director Chris Oughton said industry accepted its responsibility and gave \$240,000 to the management council for monitoring.

It had also committed another \$90,000 over three years and \$75,000 for a specific case study.

Mr Templeman said the industries council boasted that it had provided \$240,000 to the Cockburn Sound Management Council over the past six years.

However, it was a relatively small amount given the main reason the Cockburn Sound Management Council existed was to deal with the historical and ongoing impact of industry on the Sound.

"In contrast, over that same period the State Government has provided almost \$2.6m to the Cockburn Sound Management Council and this includes recurrent annual funding of \$240,000 and is acknowledgement of the important role it plays in monitoring the impacts of industry on the Sound," he said.

"This funding was renewed in the 2008-09 State Budget last month and in addition to the recurrent funding to the management council, it also received funding of \$300,000 per annum over three years in 2005-06 to target specific projects as part of ongoing management responsibilities."

Mr Templeman said the funding provided to the management council was adequate for core functions — monitoring the health of the Cockburn Sound and its improving water quality and reporting to Government on it.

He said he was a keen supporter of the management council and was exploring other funding options to further boost the council's capabilities.

"This includes the possibility of increasing licence fees for the major emitters into Cockburn Sound."

Professor Longley said that a \$240,000 allocation for the financial year was base funding only and would barely cover office expenses let alone the ongoing work carried out by the management council.

"That amount was allocated to set up the council eight years ago and has not had a CPI adjustment," she said.

"We are disappointed, but the process is not over yet and we hope that further funding can be found."