

Scientist queries 'lack of data'

FLIP PRIOR

A DREDGING expert has queried the apparent absence of data in coastal modelling at James Price Point delivered to the EPA by the Department of State Development and Woodside, saying "they" had had access to the information for years.

Dr Piers Larcombe, chief sediment scientist for oceanographic consultants RPS Metocean, said his company had conducted a

three-year measurement program on behalf of the DSD with the intention to inform a subsequent study of dredge spoil dispersal.

Commenting on the Federal Government's 2011 review of revised coastal modelling by DSD and Woodside, he was surprised that data his company provided did not appear to have been used in the modelling.

The review was highly critical, finding insufficient data to sup-

port assumptions made. "A lot of this (report) appears to say that there is little data to use ... it says detailed Metocean data - that's weather, waves and current data - are not yet available," Dr Larcombe said.

"The DSD itself, combined with Woodside, funded the collection of a whole suite of data sets along this part of the coastline.

"They've had that data for a while."

Dr Larcombe, also an adjunct

professor at the University of WA, said the data was collected between July 2008 and April 2011 at 10 offshore sites in depths ranging from 10m to 40m over periods of six to 24 months.

In addition, there were three coastal weather stations.

Dr Larcombe said the data his company provided would have filled some of the information gaps noted by the reviewers and given them increased confidence in the results.

Boys in blue are back on beach duty

KIM KIRKMAN

THE boys in blue have arrived at Cable Beach. And no, it isn't the police you'll see patrolling Broome's most famous patch of sun-kissed sand and spindrift surf.

As of last week, lifeguards John Hardbottle, Chase Lurati and Mark Van Ryn and Shire of Broome beach inspector Tim Trew are back on duty at Cable Beach.

With the soupy heat of the wet season starting to lift, mild sunny days and balmy, tropical nights are drawing punters back to the beach and the career lifeguards' work is cut out for them.

Mr Hardbottle, from Brighton, South Australia, Mr Lurati, from Phillip Island, Victoria and Mr Van Ryn, from Bega Valley Shire, New South Wales will be on-call to beachgoers at the iconic strip of sand until October.

They will provide first aid and beach safety information and are ready and equipped to rescue any swimmers and surfers who might get themselves into trouble in the ocean.

Stationed between the red and yellow flags in their distinctive blue uniforms, the lifeguards will be available from 9am to 4.30pm every day.

