

WAGERUP REFINERY — UNIT THREE EXPANSION

5097. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Regarding the Wagerup Refinery Unit Three Expansion, I ask —

- (1) Is the Minister for Environment considering an application by Alcoa to extend the implementation time limit for the approved expansion of the Alcoa Wagerup Refinery which was approved under Ministerial Statement 728?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the Minister make the application by Alcoa and supporting material publicly available prior to deciding the application?
- (3) If yes to (1), will the Minister invite public submissions on the application prior to deciding the application?
- (4) If yes to (1), does the Minister follow the procedures under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for modifying the conditions of Ministerial Statement 728 to extend the implementation time limit?
- (5) If no to (4), does the Minister intend to rely on section 46C of the Act for the purpose of making changes to the implementation conditions without requesting an inquiry by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)?
- (6) If yes to (4), will the proposal be publicly exhibited and public submission invited prior to the EPA making its report to the Minister under section 46(6) of the Act?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response:

- (1)–(6) Alcoa of Australia Limited submitted a request to me to extend the time limit for substantial commencement of the Wagerup Alumina Refinery expansion authorised under Ministerial Statement 728. This request required a change to the implementation conditions of Ministerial Statement 728 under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. In accordance with section 46 I requested the Environmental Protection Authority inquire into the proposed extension of time limit and change to implementation conditions and report to me. This report is now publicly available on the Environmental Protection Authority website. There are no requirements for public consultation under section 46, however, the EPA advised in its report that Alcoa consulted with all relevant government authorities and stakeholders prior to seeking approval. I will consider the Environmental Protection Authority's report before making my decision regarding the proposed change to implementation conditions.