

REFINERY EMISSIONS - USE OF CHEMICAL MASKING AGENTS

5540. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

With reference to chemical masking agents, I ask -

- (1) Is the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) aware of the addition of chemical masking agents to refinery emissions by Alcoa?
- (2) If yes to (1) -
 - (a) what chemical masking agents are being used; and
 - (b) in what quantities are they being used?
- (3) Has the DEC given approval for the addition of chemical masking agents to refinery emissions at the Wagerup Alcoa World Alumina Refinery?
- (4) If yes to (3) -
 - (a) what chemical masking agents have been approved; and
 - (b) what quantities have been approved for use?
- (5) If chemical masking agents are in use, will their use have any impact on the air quality monitoring and research currently being undertaken by the DEC and the Yarloop Community?
- (6) If yes to (5), how will they impact the research?
- (7) If no to (5), why not?
- (8) Is the DEC aware of any chemical masking agents in use for the purposes of masking industrial stack and ambient refinery emissions at any industrial premises in Western Australia?
- (9) Does the DEC endorse the use of chemical masking agents for industrial emissions?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) The Department of Environment and Conservation is unaware of any site currently using an odour-masking agent or odour-neutralising agent. The Department is aware that trials using odour-masking agents have been undertaken in the past without significant success.
- (9) In terms of odour emissions, the Department's preferred approach is to control emissions such that those emissions do not have an unacceptable impact on the community. Masking of odour emissions, as a short-term measure pending resolution of the odour problem may, in some cases, prove effective.