

ALCOA NOISE MAPS — WAGERUP REFINERY

987. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I gave the minister a prop when I submitted the question.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the noise maps—a map is attached—produced by Alcoa that show noise contours as bands surrounding the Wagerup refinery and extending to the Yarloop town site?
- (2) Is the minister satisfied that these maps accurately indicate how residential areas south of Wagerup are affected by noise emissions?
- (3) If yes to (2), can the minister explain why the bands appear to narrow as they come close to the first street in the town centre?
- (4) If no to (2), how has the minister expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the data has been presented, and what is he doing about it?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister for Environment granted approval on 29 June 2012 to Alcoa for its Wagerup alumina refinery, under regulation 17 of the Environmental Protection Noise Regulations 1997, to vary the allowable noise emissions based on advice from the Environmental Protection Authority, which included an assessment of Alcoa's noise contour maps.
- (3) These maps are produced by computer noise models, which take into account topography and noise barriers and, as such, the contours reflect these variations.
- (4) Not applicable.