

ALCOA WAGERUP REFINERY — BUFFER ZONE

5210. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

Referring to the Statement of Planning Policy No. 4.1 — State Industrial Buffer Policy and the Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors Western Australia (in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986) of June 2005, I ask —

- (1) With regard to the current power generating facility at the Alcoa Wagerup Refinery, what buffer zone is considered to be consistent with the above mentioned policies?
- (2) Currently, what is the closest distance between residential housing and the Wagerup power generating facility?
- (3) Is that distance compliant with these policies?
- (4) If yes to (3), how does the Minister explain the demand from nearby residents for a buffer zone?
- (5) If no to (3), what strategies does the Minister have to address this non-compliance?
- (6) When was the Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors Western Australia (in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986) last reviewed?
- (7) What was the outcome of the review?
- (8) Has the Department contributed to any review of the Statement of Planning Policy No. 4.1 — State Industrial Buffer Policy?
- (9) If yes to (8), what was this contribution?
- (10) If such review has not been undertaken or completed, does the Minister consider the current *State Industrial Buffer Policy* as adequate?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

- (1) The generic separation distance recommended in Appendix 1 of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Guidance Statement No. 3 Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses (June 2005) is 2000 to 3000 metres.
In relation to the State Industrial Buffer Policy, this question should be referred to the Minister for Planning.
- (2) Approximately two kilometres.
- (3) The EPA Guidance Statement No. 3 is not a policy document. It provides guidance for environmental impact assessments and is taken into consideration along with other information provided as part of an environmental impact assessment.
- (4) This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning.
- (5) See the answers to (3) and (4).
- (6) It has not been reviewed since 2005.
- (7) Not applicable
- (8)–(9) The Statement of Planning Policy No 4.1 is currently under review by the Department of Planning (DoP). The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has been advised by DoP of this review but is yet to receive a request for formal input into the review process. DoP has advised that it will seek input from DEC and the Office of the EPA during the review process.
- (10) This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning.