

GINGIN MEATWORKS — ODOUR MONITORING TECHNOLOGY

1284. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm to the Minister for Environment

- (1) Is it correct that the Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC) has made comments to URS Australia (URSA), which has been engaged by Gingin Meatworks to propose options for rectification of odour issues and other matters of concern, regarding not employing electronic odour monitoring technologies that will likely influence the URSA decision making process?
- (2) Is it correct that these comments were made by the DEC to URSA at an early stage of the investigation by which time it was known by DEC that the Meatworks' owner had verbally indicated to the DEC that he (the owner) was prepared to trial the electronic odour monitor technology?
- (3) Will the DEC make a clear, written statement enabling URSA to make unfettered, technically appropriate decisions on all aspects of their investigation into the Gingin Meatworks issue?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

- (1)-(3) The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has advised me that it has held two meetings with Gingin Meatworks' representatives and its consultant, URS, on 7 and 29 May 2009 to discuss the resolution of odour emissions from the meatworks.

At one of the meetings, the owner of the meatworks indicated to DEC that he was considering trialling a particular brand of odour monitoring technology.

DEC advised the owner that he was free to use this technology, but he would be required to demonstrate to DEC that the technology had been scientifically evaluated for use for the designated purpose.