

LANDFILL LEVY — WASTE RECYCLING

**670. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) How much of the projected increase in the landfill levy, which is now on hold for another six months, was going to be spent on projects to increase waste recycling in Western Australia?
- (2) Is the minister aware of any projects that have been placed in doubt or on hold as a result of the cancellation of next week's levy rise?
- (3) Has the minister been briefed or sought a briefing on any co-investment opportunities on waste management?

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1)-(3) As I said yesterday in Parliament, the government has indicated that as a result of this move, the environment will not be compromised. The Treasurer also has said that; he has said that any issues surrounding funding, which, as the member mentioned, are a result of the change—it will not be coming into effect until 1 January 2010—will be dealt with as part of the midyear review process. That is the normal process. I have said also, and the Premier also has reiterated, that the environment will not be compromised as a result of this move. We have always said that there is a requirement in the legislation that is before the other place that at least 25 per cent of the forecast levy revenue be provided for waste-related purposes.

**Hon Sally Talbot** interjected.

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER:** Would the member like me to answer the question or not?

**Hon Sally Talbot:** I was just prompting the minister.

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER:** The member does not need to prompt me; I will answer the question.

With respect to the levy, as the member may be aware—she might not be—about \$13 million is provided each year for waste-related purposes. The 25 per cent or more, as allowed for in the legislation, is around that figure, based on the forecast at the moment. Therefore, the work done by the Waste Authority will certainly continue. As I say, about \$13 million is currently provided through the levy process and the legislation will not change the fact that the Waste Authority will have responsibility for waste-related activities as part of a broader framework from the government to deal with waste-related issues.