

WASTE RECYCLING - REGIONAL TRANSPORT COSTS

**1246. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:**

- (1) What assistance has the state government provided to local authorities and community organisations in regional Western Australia to support waste recycling?
- (2) Is the Premier aware that an organisation such as the Lions Club of Leeuwin, which does an outstanding job and is recognised as a model for others to emulate in waste recovery, sees most of the profits it generates from separating glass, plastic and cardboard eaten up by transport costs to Perth?
- (3) Will the government introduce measures to help these organisations with transport costs in particular?
- (4) If not, why not?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response.

- (1) The strategic waste initiatives scheme and the community grants scheme directly support waste recycling and are available to organisations throughout the state, including local authorities, community organisations and industry.
- (2) The minister is aware that within the waste management sector the cost of transport from remote areas to recycling markets can consume most of the value of recycled materials. The minister has also advised that he recognises the good work of the Lions Club of Leeuwin and encourages the club to apply for the strategic waste initiatives scheme and the community grants scheme.
- (3) The government has introduced the rural recycling cost offset scheme to assist local authorities in regional Western Australia in overcoming the problems created by their distance from recycling markets. Funding of more than \$230 000 has been provided to local governments to date to assist local communities reuse, recycle and reprocess waste materials in regional Western Australia.  
  
The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2007, which is currently before the Legislative Council and is scheduled for debate this evening, provides a very valuable opportunity to actively engage with the community, local government and industry to achieve the vision of towards zero waste in Western Australia.
- (4) Not applicable.