

CSR LTD, DUST FROM GOSNELLS QUARRY

249. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to my question without notice 11, asked on Tuesday, 2 March 2004. The minister's answer indicated that the Department of Environmental Protection is working with quarry operators and other stakeholders to commence an extended dust monitoring program in the near future.

- (1) Did officers of the Environmental Protection Authority meet with City of Gosnells planning staff and affected landowners on 31 October 2003 and advise that they were intending to commence a dust study on 1 January 2004 to determine the effects of the dust from the CSR Ltd quarry?
- (2) Can the minister advise whether that dust study was commenced on 1 January 2004?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) When will the dust study be undertaken?
- (5) When is it anticipated that results will be known and published?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

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

- (1) Officers of the Environmental Protection Authority service unit and the Department of Environmental Protection attended a meeting at the City of Gosnells offices on 31 October 2003. Officers indicated at the meeting the need for further investigation into the issue. The timing of the investigation was not specified at this meeting. Subsequent to this meeting, the Department of Environmental Protection stated its intention to commence a study early in 2004.
- (2) The dust study was not commenced on 1 January 2004.
- (3) Scoping documents prepared by the company's consultants were found to be unsuitable by the DEP and a revised plan has had to be prepared. Issues relating to the funding of the entire Gosnells quarry buffer analysis had also to be resolved.
- (4) The DEP understands that the revised plan, including detailed site analysis, will be available for approval by the Gosnells quarry buffer analysis working party in the next week. It is expected that an exact start date will be available when the proposal is approved, but it is expected that it will take two to three weeks to have all the equipment installed.
- (5) Data will be collected for 12 months, and there will be a period of collation and interpretation after that. If the preliminary data indicates significant levels of dust, the DEP will begin to address the issues as soon as they become apparent, and not wait for the end of the study.