

POLLUTION TAX ON MOTORISTS

277. Hon. P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) What was the exact recommendation contained in the draft air quality management plan which led to the recent announcement that the State Government may consider a pollution tax on motorists?
- (2) How was it envisaged, in the draft plan, that such road revenue, or similar, might be used to improve Perth's air quality?
- (3) Is a pollution tax on motorists still under consideration by the Government?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) LTP 1.12 'Investigate the potential for implementing road pricing policies for urban use'.
- (2) The recommendation, developed by a multi stakeholder working group, was aimed at investigating the range of road pricing policies available for providing incentives for private vehicle users to consider options such as car pooling, ride-sharing and cycling. The recommendation was also based on the user pays principle which would require the owner of a motor vehicle to contribute towards the cost of the environmental impact of that vehicle. If such mechanisms were demonstrated to reduce the number of kilometres travelled using a vehicle, an improvement in air quality would be observed.
- (3) The recommendation was to investigate the potential for using road pricing policies only, not to introduce a pollution tax. The Government does not intend to introduce a pollution tax on motorists.