

COLMAX GLASS PROCESSING FACILITY

263. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Perth Colmax Glass processing facility in Kewdale.

- (1) Is the minister aware that Colmax Glass suspended its Perth operations around December last year?
- (2) Why were Colmax's operations suspended?
- (3) Is Colmax fully operational now; if so, when did operations recommence; and, if not, when will operations resume?
- (4) During the period that Colmax's operations were suspended, where did glass products sent for recycling end up?
- (5) Does Department of Environment and Conservation bulletin 9, entitled "Disposal of glass fragments in landfill", acknowledge that small amounts of unavoidable paper, plastic, metal and organic material in the glass stream may be included in waste to landfill; and, if so, how are these "small amounts" assessed?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Environment and Conservation was advised by Colmax that the closure related to commercial reasons.
- (3) DEC visited the plant on 19 April 2012 and Colmax indicated at that time the plant was not fully operational. The recommencement of commercial operations is a business decision for Colmax.
- (4) DEC understands that some glass fines—small pieces of broken glass—were sent to landfill. In line with traditional glass recycling practices, some glass products—glass cullet—were sent direct to other markets for recycling.
- (5) Glass fines may be disposed in putrescible landfill with any level of contamination of paper, plastic and organic materials. With respect to the disposal of glass fines to inert landfill, the assessment of what constitutes "unavoidable small amounts" of contamination is made by authorised DEC officers in accordance with "Landfill Waste Classification and Waste Definitions 1996 (As amended December 2009)".