

SOIL SAMPLING, BELLEVUE

202. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

I refer to answers to questions 99, 106 and 113 asked by Hon Jim Scott of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, in which the minister indicated that the Environmental Protection Act did not give the Department of Environmental Protection the power to have soil testing done on private land, and ask -

- (1) Did the Department of Environmental Protection commission CMPS&F Environmental Consultants to undertake a program of soil sampling on 15 properties in the suburb of Bellevue in proximity to the Omex petroleum site, including the Bellevue Primary School?
- (2) Will the minister confirm that the report by CMPS&F Environmental Consultants advised that numerous private company and public investigations of the site and surrounding residential areas have been undertaken over several years, culminating in a major investigation of the site in 1996-97 by the Department of Environmental Protection focused upon possible options for the remediation of the site?
- (3) If such backyard sampling in the Bellevue area in proximity to the Omex petroleum site were possible, why can the Department of Environmental Protection not now sample backyards in proximity to the Waste Control Pty Ltd fire site at 1 Bulbey Street, Bellevue?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. Soil sampling was undertaken when the agreement of interested landowners was given, which was not always the case.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The questions asked by Hon Jim Scott and answers provided related to the Waste Control Pty Ltd site at Bellevue, and not to backyards in proximity to the Waste Control fire site. Notwithstanding that, a range of samples was taken from properties in the vicinity of the Waste Control fire site, including the Bellevue Primary School, as well as areas downwind of the fire site, as part of the Department of Environmental Protection's investigation and clean-up activities.