

WESFARMERS LTD, GAS LEAK FROM LPG PLANT

232. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Will the minister confirm that on Monday 26 May 2000 the Wesfarmers LPG plant had an unauthorised release of approximately 67 tons of natural gas?
- (2) Will the minister confirm that this pollution event was not reported to the DEP as required by the licence conditions?
- (3) What action will the DEP be taking in relation to any non-compliance by Wesfarmers LPG with respect to their licence conditions?
- (4) Are such fugitive emissions included in the load based licensing arrangements for Wesfarmers LPG?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Is there any current review of the load based licensing system which is looking at the anomaly of excluding fugitive emissions from load based licences?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) I am advised by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that an event occurred at the Kwinana works of Wesfarmers LPG on Friday, 26 May 2000, that resulted in the release of approximately 67 tonnes of natural gas. The release was the result of equipment failure and approval for the release was not sought.
- (2) There is no specific condition of licence that requires such events to be reported. The DEP was formally advised of this incident on 15 June 2000.
- (3)-(7) The event is currently under investigation by the DEP in terms of what action is appropriate.