

WATER CORPORATION, MAINTENANCE LOGS

2335. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the minister to question on notice No 1881, asked on 9 September 2003, and ask -

- (a) by the answer to part (e) of question on notice No 1881, is the minister suggesting that the Water Corporation do not keep any maintenance logs, incident logs, pumping station logs or repair logs that record any spills and the action taken to repair and rectify the problem;
- (b) by the answer to question on notice No 1881, is the minister suggesting that the Water Corporation has the sole power to determine if a spill will enter the environment or cause contamination, before reporting to the EPA;
- (c) with recent changes to legislation, which may see the Water Corporation fined for spills, will the minister ensure that the Water Corporation will report all spills to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA);
- (d) will the minister now instigate an audit of all spills, including the reported average 800 unreported spills, so that a proper assessment of Water Corporation can be undertaken; and
- (e) if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a)-(b) No. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sets the parameters for reporting, which were tabled in response to your previous question and I seek leave to table this information again. [See paper No 1965.]
- (c) The Water Corporation is required, under section 72 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to report spills in accordance with the agreed parameters which I have tabled (answer b).
- (d)-(e) No. I am satisfied that all detected spills that have a potential to cause pollution are being reported.