

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS, INDUSTRIAL LIQUID WASTE

629. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Government Enterprises

When industrial liquid waste, such as winery effluent, is accepted into Water Corporation waste water treatment plants -

- (1) What screen for pesticides, herbicides and other contaminants, which may affect the biological organisms necessary for the decomposition of municipal waste, takes place?
- (2) How is the cost of \$15/kl for providing this service arrived at?
- (3) Have metropolitan waste water treatment plants only recently (since the problems associated with the Brookdale plant emerged) started to accept industrial liquid waste, or has this always been the policy?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

1. Any customer seeking approval to discharge industrial wastewater to the Water Corporation's wastewater systems must meet published acceptance criteria. They are also required to provide detailed information about their manufacturing process, waste generation, waste treatment and final waste quality and quantity. From this information, an initial determination of the acceptability of the waste can be made. Where appropriate, the wastewater may be tested for any parameters of concern during the assessment of acceptability. Monitoring of significant customers' wastewater discharge is carried out to ensure that it meets the conditions set for the discharge.
2. The cost of \$15/kl applies to the Busselton Wastewater Treatment Plant, and takes into account:
 - § the cost to treat effluent at the Busselton Wastewater Treatment plant;
 - § the Corporation's industrial waste charges;
 - § the price charged by alternative service providers - in this case septage waste disposal fees; and
 - § a return to the Corporation.
3. Industrial wastewater, which meets Water Corporation acceptance criteria, has been accepted into the wastewater system for many years.