

WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY LEVY ACT 2007 — STATE BUDGET

514. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the reference in the budget papers to changes to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007. Can the minister assure this house that all moneys raised by the landfill levy will continue to be used for the purposes for which the act designates them?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for her question. It was a decision of the government that some of the levies that are achieved through the waste levy will go to the Waste Authority and the rest, which will be determined as a result of the increase in the levies, will go to the Department of Environment and Conservation for broader environmental and conservation purposes. There is a very real problem in Western Australia in that the levies are far too low—to the point that the notion of recycling construction demolition waste is not thought about. Less than 20 per cent of construction demolition waste is recycled. In New South Wales the figure is over 65 per cent. Why? NSW levies are much higher than those in WA. They are \$3 here, and they are \$46 in NSW. There is a significant incentive for industries, particularly in the construction and demolition area, to recycle. We believe that an increase in the levies—it is a significant increase, although it is still not as high as the levies in New South Wales and other states—will provide a significant opportunity for industries to recycle. Existing funds will go to the Waste Authority to continue the valuable work that it does from a waste perspective. The additional funds will go to the Department of Environment and Conservation.