

AIR QUALITY - RAIN ACIDITY, CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND NITROGEN OXIDE LEVY

4699. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Has the distribution rain acidity (precipitation pH) across Western Australia ever been mapped?
- (2) If yes to (1) -
 - (a) when; and
 - (b) will the minister table the results of those mappings?
- (3) If no to (1) -
 - (a) why not; and
 - (b) when will the Government undertake the mapping?
- (4) If no to (2b), why not?
- (5) What is the current annual level of CO₂ emissions from the Dampier industries?
- (6) Some countries, such as Sweden, have a nitrogen oxide levy. Why is this not applied in Western Australia?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Not to my knowledge or that of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3)
 - (a) The phenomenon of acid forming rainfall is considered low risk in Western Australia given the level of acid forming gaseous emissions and rainfall patterns.
 - (b) There are no current plans to undertake this work. The current air quality management priorities include monitoring and modelling air sheds that are potentially impacted by urban and industrial emissions.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The level is not known, as CO₂ is not reportable to the National Pollutant Inventory. However, the Government is developing a mandatory reporting system for CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from significant emitters in Western Australia, which will in the future provide these data.
- (6) The load based fee structure for licensing in Western Australia includes nitrogen oxide as an emission for which discharge fees are charged to the licensed premises which emit this material.