

GLASS RECYCLING FACILITY

**641. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the recent commissioning of a glass recycling facility in Western Australia. What steps has the government taken to address the problems that have beset such plants in the past due to the fact that without a container deposit system, it has proved easier and cheaper to dump glass in landfill rather than recycle it?

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for the question. I am pleased that she has taken notice of the fact that the government has contributed quite significantly to a very important facility in Western Australia. The reality is that previously only around 15 000 tonnes was sent to South Australia. Part of the reason for that was high transport costs. The fact that we had to transport glass to South Australia was unbelievable. It also had to be cleaned; and, if it was not cleaned, it was put into landfill in South Australia at quite a high cost. The government, in combination with the Australian Packaging Covenant and Colmax Glass, which is the company running the facility, has provided around \$5.4 million to this project. Up to 22 000 tonnes of glass will be recycled through this facility this year, with the ability to increase to more than 40 000 tonnes at full operation in one year's time. I would have thought that instead of trying to be negative about this initiative, for once Hon Sally Talbot would actually be positive about a waste initiative which this government has undertaken and which was not undertaken under the previous government.