

RETURN-IT DEPOT — CLARKSON

Statement

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [6.29 pm]: I intend to make only a very brief contribution. I have conveyed the nature of this statement to the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson, because the issue pertains to his portfolio. I have reassured him that I intend to shine a light on an issue that probably involves a more robust and proactive response on behalf of the local government involved. It probably also potentially highlights an issue that relates to the rapid operationalisation of the container deposit depots. I think there might be some unintended consequences at least in the case of one I will mention here.

In the last few days, I have received representations via Trish Botha, our Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Burns Beach, on behalf of residents and some businesses affected by the operation of the Return-It depot in Clarkson located at 23–25 Caloundra Road.

The essence of the complaint is that serious aggravations are being caused by either glass processing, crushing or handling within that facility that operates, I understand, from Monday to Friday and now on weekends. The sound is allegedly permeating in the residential area some 200 to 250 metres away from the site. I have been advised by residents there that when they have sought some sort of redress or action from the City of Wanneroo, the city has advised them that they should effectively take a log of complaints for a period of three weeks and the city will helpfully send them out the form to make these log entries on, but short of that has not made any offer to send out some noise measuring equipment or council officers who we would think would ordinarily deal with these issues in the day-to-day discharge of the health and environment functions that the departments often attached to a larger authority in any event.

I am here to urge the City of Wanneroo to immediately attend the site, if it finds it within its power, and start taking some measurements. If indeed those measurements reflect a problem or exceedences of volume that is otherwise permitted by our environmental regulations that a swift, meaningful and final outcome that will fix the problem. I am a little bit grumpy with the initial bureaucratic response on behalf of local government and the sense of blame shifting between state and local. However, I must say I have heard none of that negativity or lack of responsibility adopted by the state government yet. I want to highlight this issue and wonder whether there might be some problems with similar facilities co-located in mixed-use environments particularly those without a real large buffer between residential areas.

I imagine this is completely well intentioned. The government has every right to introduce the legislation and enact this program in the way it has done so. But I am now a little bit concerned that perhaps some of the depots in which this activity is taking place are causing a negative environmental outcome that is undermining the quality of life and business practice for everybody it surrounds.

I look forward to a response of some form from the minister at the time as well as an expedient and proactive response from the City of Wanneroo if it is within its power, and a positive outcome for the residents concerned.