

WATER-SOLUBLE PHOSPHOROUS FERTILISERS

Hon ANTHONY FELS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the demonstration program relating to phasing out highly water-soluble phosphorous fertilisers for farming and horticulture in the Swan coastal plain and other environmentally sensitive areas of Western Australia.

- (1) Has the selection of demonstration sites been completed; and, if not, when is it anticipated that they will be selected?
- (2) If yes to (1), what are the locations of the demonstration sites, and what are the selection criteria?
- (3) Have any preliminary field demonstrations been established?
- (4) Will any ban apply to household lawns and gardens in Perth?
- (5) What restrictions will be placed on fertiliser for lawns, gardens and recreation areas on private and public property within close proximity of the Swan River?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) No. The demonstration sites will be selected within the next few months, following the consideration of all public submissions.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) It is expected that urban users will find only low water-soluble phosphorous fertilisers available on store shelves within the next couple of years.
- (5) The phase-out of highly water-soluble phosphorous fertilisers will apply to all users within the environmentally sensitive areas of south-west Western Australia. For household users, it is expected that fertiliser products on store shelves will be replaced with low water-soluble phosphorous fertilisers in the next couple of years.