

WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD, CHAIRPERSON, CREDIT CARD

1895. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 788 of 25 February 2003 and ask -

- (a) what is the reason for the Chairperson of the Waste Management Board having a Government supplied credit card;
- (b) under what rules and conditions was this credit card issued; and
- (c) when was the last time this card was audited to ensure compliance with the rules and conditions of use?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Waste Management Board was supplied with a credit card because this appointment attracts a part-time salary and no sitting fees are paid. The Chairperson is expected to liaise and promote activities of the Board in development of advice relating to waste policy issues. This has required travel to regional areas of the State, including the South West and Port Hedland. The credit card assisted in purchasing the accommodation, flights and car hire.
- (b) The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a policy on the provision and use of corporate credit cards and new card recipients sign an 18-point Agreement Form covering usage. The critical points of control centre on transaction limits (\$3000), monthly limits (\$5000), restrictions on usage, (eg) no fuel, personal, capital purchases, cash withdrawals and Internet usage. The policy is quite comprehensive and endorsed by the DEP's Corporate Executive.
- (c) The DEP is audited internally and externally each year. The last audit was on 30 June 2002. The audit examines processes, systems, procedures, compliance and various forms of internal controls over a wide range of transactions and functions, including credit card administration. Individual cards are not audited as such, but the process and system is and we are able to report that it meets the audit standard.