

CITY OF JOONDALUP - MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF CHEMICALS INCLUDING HERBICIDES

2432. Mr A.P. O'Gorman to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government

Is the Minister aware that the City of Joondalup is not responding to public questions by ratepayers, dated 24 April 2007 and 22 May 2007, which are seeking information regarding how the City registers, manages and controls the type of chemicals, including herbicides, used within the City, and their application and distribution around natural bushland, public parks and drainage sumps?

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

The Department of Local Government and Regional Development advises that the minutes of Council meetings, as published on the City of Joondalup's website, show that while the City has provided specific responses to some questions, responses to other questions indicate that the issue is currently under investigation and review by the City.

As some questions submitted directly relate to the investigation, it was not appropriate for the City of Joondalup to respond specifically to the questions asked at the time.

The report of the investigation was completed after the 22 May 2007 meeting. In conjunction with this investigation, the City also commenced an internal review of the herbicide application program.

The City advises that it has prepared draft responses to the questions raised and these have been referred to its legal advisors before they can be provided to the ratepayer, for reasons that the report is confidential and subject to legal privilege and the internal review is ongoing.