

POISON 1080

1313. Mr Masters to the Minister for Health

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 1271 and ask -

- (a) what are the general details of the three formal substantive complaints received by the Department of Health over the past five years;
- (b) what 'expert committee' recommended that 1080 be classified as a schedule 7 poison;
- (c) when did the committee make its recommendation;
- (d) what is the membership of the committee; and
- (e) how were the 'special regulations restricting their availability, possession, storage or use' prepared?

Mr KUCERA replied:

- (a)
 - (i) September 1999 – Dog Owner from the Nannup region claims that a Bull Mastiff male tethered at his property has been poisoned with 1080 following aerial baiting in the surrounding area. Investigation unable to substantiate this claim.
 - (ii) January 2001 – Landholder in Busselton claims that 1080 was laid in an area adjacent to his property and within access to his children. Investigation recommends no further action.
 - (iii) March 2001 and July 2001 – Dog owner visits an A-Class Reserve near Albany in March 2001 and claims his pet dog died from ingesting a 1080 bait. Also claims that inappropriate advice from a CALM Ranger directly contributed to the animal's death. Investigation recommends no further action.

Complainant visits the same area in July 2001 and claims to have again found 1080 dried meat baits. Investigation unable to substantiate this claim.
- (b) The Pesticide Advisory Committee restricted use of 1080 to the Department of Agriculture in 1952 when it considered an application for importation of the substance for research.
- (c) The Secretariat of the Poisons Advisory Committee has been unable to ascertain the exact date when the recommendation was made. However, the Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee, a national organisation consisting of State and Territory representatives, considered the scheduling of 1080 in 1955. The Department of Health does not have records of the meeting at which the decision was made. The toxicological profile of 1080 is consistent with the guidelines for a Schedule 7 poison and 1080 would have been included in Seventh Schedule of the Poisons Act 1964 when the Act was enacted.
- (d) The membership of the Poisons Advisory Committee was prescribed under the Poisons Act 1964 and consisted of two ex-officio members (the Commissioner of Health or a medical practitioner nominated by the Commissioner of Health, and the Director of the Chemistry Centre of Western Australia or an analyst from the Chemistry Centre to act in his/her place) and 10 nominee members nominated by University of Western Australia (a pharmacologist), the Minister for Health (occupational health physician employed in the Public Service of the State), the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Medical Association (two medical practitioners), the Minister for Agriculture (an officer of the Department of Agriculture), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia (two members), the Veterinary Surgeons Board (a veterinary surgeon), the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia (one nominee), and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Western Australian Branch, one nominee).
- (e) The provisions under Section 24 Notice of the Poisons Act 1964 that relate to the availability, possession, storage and use of 1080 was developed by the Pesticides Advisory Committee (Health Act 1911) in consultation with the Poisons Advisory Committee, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Conservation and Land Management.