

BALDIVIS ASPHALT PLANT — ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

56. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the recently approved asphalt plant that has just been built in Baldivis by the Southern Gateway Alliance that will be used during the construction of the Perth-Bunbury highway. Can the minister please outline to the house the approval process that was undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation before approving the plant's construction?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Department of Environment and Conservation received a works approval application from Pioneer Road Services for an asphalt manufacturing plant in Baldivis that was advertised on 29 September 2008 for a seven-day public comment period. However, comments were accepted until 15 October 2008. In addition, DEC also sent notification of the works approval application to all residents living within one kilometre of the asphalt plant seeking comment. All the comments received were considered in the assessment of the works approval application. The decision to grant a works approval was based on information provided by DEC that demonstrated the plant was unlikely to cause a negative environmental impact. This assessment also included advice from the Department of Health on the impact of any emissions. The works approval was issued on 16 October 2008 and advertised on 20 October 2008 for a 21-day appeal period, closing on 10 November 2008. Fourteen appeals were received and the Office of the Appeals Convenor is currently assessing those appeals. DEC also received a licence application from Pioneer Road Services that was advertised on 27 October 2008 for a 21-day public comment period.