

MIDLAND TRAIN STATION — GLYPHOSATE USE

**1250. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the spraying of glyphosate at the Midland train station around 11.30 am on Tuesday, 22 October 2019.

- (1) Who authorised the spraying, what was the purpose, and why was no other method used in a highly populated transit area?
- (2) Are all train platforms in Perth sprayed with glyphosate; and, if so, how often and at what times of the day?
- (3) What are the documented procedures for glyphosate use while people are waiting for or disembarking from trains, and how are they expected to avoid inhalation of or contact with airborne sprays?
- (4) Was there any pre-warning to train travellers to avoid the area; and, if so, how and when was it communicated?
- (5) Are people who arrive post-spraying informed that spray residue may still be present on the seating and other structures; and, if not, why not?

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Let us hear from the Minister for Environment first.

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

Thank you, Madam President. I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Public Transport Authority engages fully qualified and accredited landscaping contractors, who at the time were using a glyphosate product for the purpose of treating and controlling weeds. Although the PTA is currently investigating and considering alternative methods and options for treating and controlling weeds, that ingredient is being used for that purpose.
- (2) Most train stations, including car parks and verges, have been treated for weed control methods that include this ingredient. Frequency of use has ranged from every three to six months, and occurs more frequently depending on seasonality and climate.
- (3) The contractor is obliged to adhere to the product material safety data sheets and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for use. The spray is applied outside of peak hours and a spotter is present to ensure that members of the public do not enter the proximity. The spray is applied directly to the surface with a specialised nozzle for proper control to prevent overspray.
- (4) Signage is deployed at locations in which this ingredient is applied. In addition, a spotter is used to ensure that members of the public are informed and do not remain at close proximity.
- (5) This product is applied directly to weeds for effective weed control and is not sprayed on any other surfaces that the public may come into contact with.