

POLLUTION, MIDLAND

93. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Did the Minister receive complaints about a pollution plume causing problems in the Midland area on 19 April 2000?
- (2) What action has the Minister undertaken to respond to complaints?
- (3) Will the Minister establish air monitoring in the Midland area?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) If so, what is proposed?
- (6) How many complaints about air pollution in the Midland electorate has the Minister, her office or the Environmental Protection Authority received during 1999 and also to date on 2000?
- (7) What was the nature of the complaints received?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) Yes, both I and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received complaints from a West Midland resident about this incident.
- (2) I wrote back to the complainant providing preliminary information and advising that the DEP was investigating the issue. The DEP first wrote to the complainant acknowledging receipt of the complaint, and then wrote again, following completion of its investigation, to provide further information and advice.

The DEP is also undertaking a review of the operations of existing brick and tile manufacturers in relation to air emissions in the Swan Valley. The review includes a more detailed investigation of how local meteorology and topography affect the dispersion of brick and tile plant emissions, a review of measurement methods and a programme of monitoring hydrogen chloride emissions.

- (3)-(5) The DEP operates an air quality monitoring station in Caversham (one of ten in the Perth metropolitan area) and it monitors for carbon monoxide, nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sub 10 micrometre particles and sub 2.5 micrometre particles. The three Swan Valley brick and tile manufacturing premises which are licensed by the DEP also undertake regular measurements of hydrogen fluoride emissions from their plant chimneys and conduct continuous hydrogen fluoride monitoring at eight ground level locations (ambient sampling).
- (6) In 1999, the DEP received 76 complaints about air pollution around the Midland electoral district, and between 1 January 2000 and 8 June 2000 a further 44 were received. Each of these complaints was the subject of an investigation by a DEP officer, involving validation or otherwise of the complaint, and determination of the source. Where the source could be identified, action was taken to resolve the problem.
- (7) The nature of these complaints related to a wide variety of sources including rendering plants, brickworks, chicken farms, domestic chimneys, general smoke haze and unidentified sources.