

SEWAGE SPILLS, RECORDS, AUDITING

2559. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No.1881 of September 2003 and ask -

- (a) by the answer to (e) does the Minister hold that no records are kept of any spill that the Water Corporation deems will not need to be reported under Section 72 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;
- (b) does the Water Corporation keep any incident logs, maintenance records or other records, regarding minor spills that are able to be audited;
- (c) if not, why not;
- (d) does the Minister concede that such records would be required for maintenance and repair schedules;
- (e) does the Minister concede that the EPA should regularly audit these records;
- (f) will the Minister now investigate the existence of any such records and answer question on notice No. 1881 part (e); and
- (g) will the Minister also order the EPA to audit the information, on minor spills, that has been withheld from her?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Yes. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is unable to keep records of spills that are not registered by the Water Corporation.
- (b) I understand this to be the case, however, this question concerning the Water Corporation operation should be referred to the Minister for Government Enterprises.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) This question should be referred to the Minister for Government Enterprises for a response.
- (e) No.
- (f) No. The spills in question range from volumes of a few litres to two kilolitres in size. Owing to the variable number and size of such spills, it is not possible to reliably estimate the total volume.
- (g) No.