

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION — WASTE REFORM

361. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's reform work undertaken since the release of the document *Closing the loop: Waste reforms for a circular economy*.

- (1) What is the status of the department's consultations with stakeholders; for example, are these consultations ongoing or have they now concluded?
- (2) Has the regulatory framework that applies to waste management and recycling sectors in eastern states jurisdictions informed the department's reform work in any way; and, if so, how?
- (3) How close is the department to completing its reform work?
- (4) Does the minister anticipate being able to deliver upon this reform work through legislative and/or regulatory amendments before the end of this calendar year?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is progressing waste reform projects to address key issues with the waste legislative framework and state government commitments in the *Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2030*. The projects include *Closing the loop: Waste reforms for a circular economy*; *Waste not, want not: Valuing waste as a resource ... Proposed legislative framework for waste-derived materials*; the review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007; and the review of the waste levy. Consultation was undertaken on all these reforms in 2020, with submission periods closing from July to December. The department has analysed the submissions received and is preparing advice to government. The *Closing the loop* consultation paper was prepared as a consultation regulatory impact statement and a decision regulatory impact statement is being finalised.
- (2) Yes. A cross-jurisdictional review was undertaken for the development of the closing the loop reforms in the 2017 *Waste reform project: Proposed approaches for legislative reform* and the 2019 consultation on waste-derived materials. This work was updated in 2020 to inform the *Closing the loop* and *Waste not, want not* papers. Developments in national policy were also considered, including the national waste policy and the COAG ban on the export of certain waste materials.
- (3)–(4) The McGowan government continues to progress waste legislative reform as a priority.