

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING, NORTH WEST

485. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the recently announced waste management and recycling fund grant awarded to the Shire of Chittering to help improve waste management in the region, and ask: -

- (a) how much of the proposed \$5million from the landfill levy collected each year is to be spent on programs to sponsor waste reduction and recycling activities in the North West of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Half of the money collected from the landfill levy in any six-month period is allocated to a program within the Waste Management and Recycling Fund known as the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme (previously known as the Municipal Recycling Services Scheme). The rebate program rewards councils on the basis of their recycling performance during that period. This funding is not allocated on the basis of geographical region and therefore it is not possible to indicate an allocation to the NorthWest. However, any council, which provides recycling services to their community, may apply for the rebate. The rebate received is based on recycling performance and payments are made according to tonnes of material diverted from landfill.

Grant funding has also been available under eight other grant programs within the Waste Management and Recycling Fund, but these programs are currently on hold while the Fund undergoes a statutory review. In the past, councils, businesses and community groups have been able to apply for grants in areas such as waste classification and information, regional recycling, public education and promotion, and recycling industry development.

- (b) The Shires of Ashburton, Broome, Carnarvon, and Roebourne have received assistance under the grants programs.

The Shire of Ashburton received a grant of \$3,500 in 1999 for a waste classification and information project.

The Shire of Broome received \$15,600 in 2001 to develop a waste management strategy.

The Shire of Carnarvon received \$20,000 in 1999 for a community mulching project.

The Shire of Roebourne received \$4,000 in 2000 for a project to market the use of mulch.

Industry and community groups have also received assistance.

In 1999 the Kimberley Aluminium Can Recycling Group received \$2,000 for a project to investigate ways of recovering aluminium cans in remote areas.

In 1999 the Flat Bottle Company received an industry grant of \$12,500 towards the cost of a kiln to recycle glass bottles in Broome.

In 2000 the Gascoyne Community Health Group received \$15,390 for an indigenous community recycling initiative.

In 2000 ECS Gumala Pty Ltd received \$57,647 for a mining village recycling demonstration project in the Pilbara.

In 2001 Tox Free Solutions Ltd of Port Hedland received an industry grant of \$93,900 to develop a grease and hydrocarbon recycling project.

The Derby Enterprise Centre was awarded a grant of \$4,150 towards the cost of running the North West '3R Awards', but did not take up this grant.

Any local government authority may apply for rebates. The program is managed by the Western Australian Local Government Association, which invites all councils to apply in every funding round. The Shire of Roebourne applied in funding periods 2, 3, and 4 and received rebates of \$426, \$3,460, and \$2,897 respectively.

- (c) Responsibility for the administration of the Fund rests with the Department of Environmental Protection. Applications to the Fund are considered by the Waste Management Board, which

makes recommendations to me. I have sole responsibility for approving expenditure from the Fund.

- (d) The Waste Management and Recycling Fund has been running since July 1998 and is ongoing. The activities, which may be funded, are outlined in the Waste Management and Recycling Fund Principles, Objectives and Operating Guidelines, which are available from the Department of Environmental Protection.