

ESPERANCE LEAD CONTAMINATION

469. Hon WENDY DUNCAN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Given that the lead contamination of rainwater tanks in Esperance remains a problem, I refer to the minister's media statement of 27 February 2008 in which she states —

Householders with water tanks showing Magellan lead levels above drinking water guidelines can ask for their tanks and roof to be cleaned, or for reverse osmosis devices to be provided and fitted to their scheme water.

- (1) Did the minister consult with the Shire of Esperance prior to making that commitment?
- (2) Who will pay the cost of householders having their tanks' water tested so they can prove contamination was caused by Magellan lead and, therefore, request the cleaning or reverse osmosis device?
- (3) How many people are on the waiting list to have their tank water tested by the Shire of Esperance pending a decision on who will pay for these tests?
- (4) Will the minister immediately commit funds to enable the testing to take place so that residents can then request cleaning or the reverse osmosis devices?
- (5) Who will pay for the cleaning or reverse osmosis devices?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, I thank Hon Wendy Duncan for some notice of this question, to which the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has provided an answer in the following terms —

- (1) The Esperance Port Authority and the Department of Health did consult with the Shire of Esperance on this matter before the minister made this commitment.
- (2) The Department of Health.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) This commitment has already been made.
- (5) The Esperance Port Authority.