

WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA - AUDIT

4715. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) commissioned a consultant investigation (audit/assessment) into existing waste treatment facilities in Western Australia to determine their conformance with the Government's technology suitability criteria for new and better hazardous waste treatment plants?
- (2) If yes to (1), which current waste treatment facilities were assessed for compliance as part of the investigation?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?
- (4) Were all of the Western Australian waste treatment facilities currently treating controlled waste required to take part in the investigation?
- (5) If yes to (4), please detail those facilities required to take part?
- (6) If no to (4), why not?
- (7) Did any of the treatment facilities decline to take part in the investigation?
- (8) If yes to (7), which specific facilities declined?
- (9) Were any of the facilities that were assessed compliant with the Government's Technology Suitability Criteria for new and better hazardous waste treatment plants?
- (10) If yes to (9), which specific facilities?
- (11) Will the Minister please table the report concerning an investigation (audit/assessment) into existing waste treatment facilities in Western Australia to determine their conformance with the Government's Technology Suitability Criteria for new and better hazardous waste treatment plants?
- (12) If no to (11), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Yes, assessments were undertaken of the conformance of existing waste treatment facilities in Western Australia with the Core Consultative Committee on Waste's (3C) technology suitability criteria, with the voluntary agreement of facilities.
- (2) Wren Oil (Picton), Total Waste Management (Kalgoorlie and Welshpool facilities), and Tox Free Solutions (Kwinana).
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. DEC selected a sample of the existing facilities to gain information on how existing facilities compared with the criteria.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) DEC considered that assessing a sample of facilities was adequate for the purposes of the 3C process. The assessments referred to in the answer to question (1) are in addition to the normal regulation of waste treatment facilities licensed under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (7) No.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9)-(10) The Technology Suitability Criteria developed by the 3C, and the associated assessments undertaken against the criteria, were part of a comprehensive planning process only. The assessments were agreed to by industry on a voluntary basis and the industries have not given permission to release the information. The information from the assessments will be provided to Cabinet as part of its consideration of the 3C report and recommendations. As these matters are to be considered by Cabinet, I am not at liberty to provide this information.
- (11) No.
- (12) The assessments form part of a comprehensive planning process that involves providing advice to Cabinet and it is not appropriate to make the information publicly available as Cabinet is yet to consider that information.