

RE-USEABLE SHOPPING BAGS — OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD

453. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

Is the minister concerned that re-useable shopping bags present an occupational health and safety hazard to shop assistants?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for her question. I use re-useable shopping bags. I have said in the house previously that I have green, pink and purple bags—every colour under the sun.

Several members interjected.

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: Green is the best, but I do like the pink ones as well!

Having said that, I am aware that work has been undertaken, particularly in response to results from the Victorian trial. In the report to the Victorian minister by the Environmental Protection Authority and industry groups, some concerns were raised about occupational health and safety issues for checkout attendants. Obviously commonsense should apply, and I would certainly encourage people to continue using these bags.