

WASTE LEVY

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

I refer to efforts by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to investigate claims of systemic waste levy avoidance. What specific series of steps were followed by DWER in response to allegations made by the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia —

... that levy avoidance in the C&D sector here in WA is large-scale, systemic, organized and long standing.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

In relation to allegations of illegal activity, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation firstly crosschecks the veracity of all information received. This fundamental step independently establishes the facts and identifies any potentially vexatious complaints. The information provided by the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia has been, and continues to be, followed up with inquiries by authorised inspectors using contemporary investigative techniques. Some of the inquiries involved direct, overt approaches to the entities named, including statutory notices being served requiring specific information to be provided. These investigations have also involved covert surveillance to gather further evidence. Investigations based on information provided by the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia remain active and therefore providing further details at this time may compromise any potential outcomes.