

POULTRY LITTER-FIRED POWER STATION, AMMONIA LEVELS AND FLY ASH

775. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer the Minister to the assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority on the 'Poultry Litter Fired Power Station' and ask -

- (a) is the Minister aware of the high level of ammonia contained in poultry litter;
- (b) is the Minister aware that this is likely to produce high levels of ammonia sulphate when burnt;
- (c) if yes, is the Minister concerned that the EPA failed to assess this potential pollutant, apart from referring to fly ash;
- (d) how will the fly ash be disposed of if it cannot be sold as fertiliser;
- (e) if no assessment has been conducted for fly ash disposal, will the Minister order such an assessment; and
- (f) if not, why not?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) The nitrogen content of Western Australian poultry litter is around 3%. If all this nitrogen was present as ammonia, the ammonia content would only be around 3.6%.
- (b) Small amounts of ammonium sulphate are possible.
- (c) No. Ammonium sulphate is a fertiliser component.
- (d) The ash would be disposed to an appropriate class of landfill.
- (e) The Environmental Protection Authority has recommended a condition requiring an Ash Management Plan to be prepared to ensure ash is managed and disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner. The Environmental Protection Authority's report and recommendations for this proposal is currently the subject of appeals under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (f) Not applicable