

WATER — SAMSON DAM — CONTAMINATION

1174. Hon DIANE EVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

- (1) Will the minister please confirm whether contamination has recently occurred in or near Samson Dam and nearby creeks and tributaries; and —
 - (a) if yes, was it a result of Alcoa's operations at the Willowdale mine site; and
 - (b) if no, what was the cause?
- (2) If yes to (1), what is the impact to the Samson Brook catchment area—drinking water source?
- (3) If yes to (1), what testing and monitoring is occurring, by whom and at what cost?
- (4) If yes to (1), what is being done to rectify the contamination?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. The Minister for Water has provided the following information.

- (1) Alcoa reports monthly to the Water Corporation and has advised that there has been a number of loss of containment incidents associated with mining activities in the Samson Brook catchment area, such as leaks from hoses, storage facility spills, drainage sump ruptures, and spills from refuelling equipment.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (2) No impact on the drinking water source occurred, as the reported losses were contained and recovered.
- (3) Routine sampling of Samson Dam and the catchment is undertaken by the Water Corporation, consistent with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, at an annual cost of \$7 100.
- (4) Sampling results indicate that no contamination has occurred.