

ILLEGAL DUMPING

**195. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of a reported increase in illegal dumping over the past 12 months?
- (2) Can the minister advise on the progress of the previously announced legislative amendments to increase the fines for illegal dumping?

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1)–(2) I asked the department for some advice about illegal dumping just a short time ago. The advice I have is that illegal dumping has not increased. However, as we well know, illegal dumping has always been present. With respect to the legislation that is currently being drafted, I can advise the member that it is just going through its final stages and I expect that it will be introduced very shortly. I think it reflects well on the Liberal–National government that we have taken the initiative to increase the penalties for illegal dumping, because the reality is, as we know, that under the current legislation unless a case for pollution can be made, the fines are up to only \$1 000 and that is simply not good enough. Under the legislation that will be introduced into this house very shortly, the fines will be up to \$62 500 for individuals and \$125 000 for body corporates. I think that will send a very clear message to would-be dumpers that illegal dumping will not be tolerated. I assure the member that the legislation will be introduced soon.