

WASTE LEVY

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

I refer to my question of 5 May concerning allegations of systemic waste levy avoidance being brought to the attention of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation over the course of the last four years, which I was asked to put on notice due to the level of detail required to answer. I will ask a more specific question.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the substance of a submission made by the Waste and Recycling Industry of Western Australia, particularly that “WRIWA has provided evidence to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and to the Minister for the Environment that levy avoidance in the C&D sector here in WA is largescale, systemic, organized and long standing”?
- (2) If yes to (1), what actions, if any, have been undertaken by the minister and/or the department in recent years in relation to this allegation?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Environment.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The information provided has been the subject of ongoing investigations to determine whether it can be corroborated with admissible evidence to prove that offences have been committed. Although some of the information submitted was unable to be substantiated, it provided additional lines of inquiry and further intelligence for investigators. In order to initiate a prosecution, the admissible evidence must prove beyond reasonable doubt that the particular offences have been commissioned. Securing evidence to the standards expected by the courts remains the subject of active joint investigations.