

MOTOR VEHICLES, NOISY AND SMOKY VEHICLES

1675. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer the Minister to the answer to question on notice No. 771 and ask -

- (a) how many vehicles have been reported to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) since February 10, 2001;
- (b) of these reports, how many are multiple reports for the same vehicle;
- (c) what action is taken on these reports;
- (d) what follow up action is taken to ensure that the problem has been rectified;
- (e) does the DEP audit the number of reports to the number of contacts and the number of follow up actions;
- (f) will the Minister table these figures;
- (g) if not, why not;
- (h) what action does the DEP take if the owner of a reported vehicle ignores the DEP; and
- (i) does the DEP refer reports of smoky vehicles to the WA Police Service for action under the 10-second rule?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) 840 has been reported since 10 February 2001.
- (b) 293.
- (c) Letters are sent to the owners of vehicles reported more than once, within a 3-month period.
- (d) Owners are requested to respond to the letter and advise if the excessive smoking has been rectified.
- (e) Not at this stage. However, the review of the program is expected to include this feature.
- (f) Answered by (e).
- (g) The existing program does not have a resolution system if an owner ignores the DEP. However, this is to be included in the review, so that vehicles that are reported more than five times within 3 months are automatically referred to the Police Service for inspection.
- (h) Currently, informal arrangements only exist between the DEP and Police Service for referrals of smoky vehicles. However with the review, and the establishment of the Environmental Enforcement Unit within the DEP, a formal referral system will be created by the end of this year, which will make the program much more effective than it was.