

WASTE DISPOSAL, FIRE DAM ON LOT 12 BIRD ROAD

178. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) With respect to the fire dam on Lot 12 Bird Road, what testing was undertaken to determine the permeability and other relevant characteristics of the clay used to backfill the fire dam to ensure that it does not represent a pathway for contaminants?
- (2) If no testing was undertaken, how is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) confident that the fire dam location does not represent a pathway for contaminants leaching from the site to enter the Boomerang Creek?
- (3) With respect to the drainage channel, what testing was undertaken to determine the permeability and other relevant characteristics of the clay used to seal the channel in order to ensure that the channel does not represent a pathway for contaminants?
- (4) If no testing was undertaken, how is the DEP confident that the filled channel does not represent a pathway for the off-site transportation of contaminants?
- (5) With respect to the shallow dam and given that the DEP has described Lot 12 as a sensitive area which is subject to periodic inundation, why was the dam allowed to be filled with contaminated demolition waste since this represents a clear pathway for the offsite transportation of the contaminants?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) No testing was undertaken.
- (2) The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has conducted an investigation into backfilling of the dams at Lot 12. The fire dam was backfilled with the same clay that was originally excavated from the fire dam. The clay in this locality is characterised by its low permeability and therefore the DEP considers that backfilling the dam with the clay originally excavated from the dam together with current leachate management at Lot 12 represents appropriate management for the prevention of potential contaminants from inert landfill material entering the Boomerang Creek.
- (3) No testing was undertaken.
- (4) A section of the drainage channel adjacent to the shallow dam was backfilled with the same clay that was originally excavated from the drainage channel. The clay in this locality is characterised by its low permeability and therefore the DEP considers that backfilling the drainage channel with the clay originally excavated from the channel together with current leachate management at Lot 12 represents appropriate management for the prevention of potential contaminants from inert landfill material entering the Boomerang Creek.
- (5) It has not been established that inert material used to backfill the shallow dam was contaminated further.