

ENVIRONMENT — WASTE LEVY

89. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to accusations of systemic waste levy avoidance in Western Australia, and I ask:

- (a) can the Minister please advise the number of occasions over the previous four years that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) either received complaints about, or were alerted to, well-founded suspicions about the practice of system waste levy avoidance;
- (b) on which specific dates were these complaints/suspicions brought to DWER's attention; and
- (c) with respect to (b), what follow-up action occurred, if any?

Hon Stephen Dawson replied:

- (a) 39
- (b)

Year	Date
2017	23 May 25 May 16 June 21 June 24 June 26 June 5 September 6 November
2018	28 March 17 April 18 May 24 May 31 May 31 August 5 September 9 November
2019	24 January 14 March 29 May 6 June (two complaints) 21 June 6 August (two complaints) 12 August 30 August 3 September 10 September 9 October 30 October 27 November 2 December
2020	24 January 27 March 20 April 4 August 3 November
2021	27 January 28 April

- (c) Complaints and suspicions about waste levy avoidance form part of the intelligence that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation receives and evaluates. This intelligence is collected from a range of sources including the waste industry. The Department's Authorised Officers and Inspectors use both overt and covert contemporary investigation techniques to gather evidence under the legislation that it

administers. Joint investigations with other law enforcement agencies, including WA Police, have been, and will continue to be carried out where intelligence indicates that illegal activity may extend beyond waste levy offences. If sufficient evidence is secured to demonstrate a *prima facie* case that an offence has been committed, enforcement action is taken in accordance with the Department's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*. When information provided by a complainant does not result in enforcement action, it is retained and recorded for intelligence purposes.

The Department is currently investigating allegations of waste levy evasion, however it would not be appropriate to comment on these ongoing investigations.
