

STATE WASTE STRATEGY

44. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Why in two and a half years has this government failed to put a state waste strategy in place, even though its own research is telling it that waste to landfill in Western Australia is increasing exponentially?
- (2) If the minister believes that Jim Malcolm's brief is to develop, promote and review a waste strategy for the state and coordinate its implementation—believe it or not I am quoting the minister!—why has Mr Malcolm been appointed for only six months?
- (3) Will the minister support Labor's move to ban the use of plastic bags in WA?
- (4) Will the minister act without delay to introduce container deposit legislation in WA?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Environment has provided the following information —

- (1) The Waste Authority has developed a draft waste strategy for Western Australia after extensive statewide consultation with stakeholders. The Minister for Environment will release the waste strategy as soon as he has considered and approved the draft waste strategy, as he is required to do under the legislation.
- (2) Mr Malcolm was appointed for a period of six months, to align with the remaining term of membership for the current Waste Authority members.
- (3) The Minister for Environment is considering the use of plastic bags in the context of broader waste policy, including considerations of measures to change consumer behaviour.
- (4) Western Australia is participating in the development of a consultation regulatory impact statement through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council to address packaging impacts. This specifically includes consideration of a container deposit scheme. Until such time as that process is complete, it would be premature to adopt a state-based scheme.