

STATE GOVERNMENT GAS HEATER REBATE PROGRAM

2478. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to a newspaper article titled 'Gas Heater Rebate feelgood politics', which appeared on page 2 of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* on Monday 18 June 2007, I ask -

- (a) will the Minister ensure that the \$500 gas heater rebate available to metropolitan residents is made available to all residents in the Goldfields and other residents outside of the Perth metropolitan area;
- (b) if no to (a) why not;
- (c) can the Minister explain the rationale and formula used by Government which estimated that health costs attributed to wood smoke will be \$314 million dollars; and
- (d) if no to (c) why not?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) The current wood heater replacement program is funded under the Perth Air Quality Management Plan. The wood heater replacement program at present focuses on the community, amenity and health impacts of smoke from domestic sources in the Perth metropolitan area.  
  
Future programs could be extended outside of the Perth metropolitan area to include the Goldfields. A number of air quality management plans are currently being developed for regional areas, including Kalgoorlie. Where wood heaters are identified to be a significant contributor to air pollution, regional management programs similar to those for Perth will be considered.
- (c) The wood heater policy options paper was released on 23 May 2007 for public comment, closing on 31 August 2007. This consultation document includes details of calculations of health costs attributed to wood smoke emissions in the Perth metropolitan region. The rationale and factors considered to calculate this figure are outlined in Section 2.3 of the document. In addition to this, a supplementary document titled Cost-Benefit Analysis of Wood-Smoke Reduction in Perth is available on the Department of Environment and Conservation's website.
- (d) Not applicable.