

PREMISES HOUSING DANGEROUS GOODS - LEAKAGE FROM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

2710. Dr J.M. Woollard to the Minister for the Environment

In 2004 a report was published in the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* stating that an audit of 6,500 premises in Western Australia with dangerous goods revealed 57 per cent had underground storage tanks. Half were in Perth and 217 were leaking pollutants. These statistics were printed in the Government's *State of the Environment Report 2007*. With reference to these reports, I ask the Minister:

- (a) what action has the Government undertaken since the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* report was published in 2004 to remedy the problem regarding leaking underground storage tanks;
- (b) what standards or guidelines does the Government apply to underground storage tanks in order to reduce the possibility of leaks and groundwater contamination;
- (c) to date how many of these leaking underground storage tanks have been dealt with:
 - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
 - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth;
- (d) when will the remaining leaking underground storage tanks be dealt with:
 - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
 - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth; and
- (e) how often does the Government inspect underground storage tanks:
 - (i) in metropolitan Perth; and
 - (ii) outside metropolitan Perth?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a)-(e) The Department of Environment and Conservation is not responsible for the management of underground storage tanks. This is the responsibility of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection. .