

ESPERANCE LEAD POLLUTION

**456. Dr S.C. THOMAS to the Minister for the Environment:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the minister concede that he and his government are unable to deliver basic environmental monitoring and compliance to protect the environment and the people of Western Australia?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

This government has a record on environmental protection that is streets ahead of anything ever attempted or done by those in the opposition. It is this government that introduced in 2003 the contaminated sites legislation. It is this government that has demonstrated a clear understanding of the need to protect our biodiversity. It is this government that has made sure that we understand the importance of recycling and responding to the challenges that the environment of Western Australia has. The record is very clear. When we put the torch to the opposition regarding what it did when it was in government in this place for eight years, we find that it did nothing to protect the environment of Western Australia. We have seen what the Labor government has done to protect Ningaloo, to protect the old-growth forests in the south west and to understand the importance of biodiversity. We will do everything possible to make sure that we continue to improve what needs to be improved in terms of environmental protection. We will continue to amend the Environmental Protection Act, where appropriate. When people make comparisons, they will recognise that the environment is an absolute priority of this government and will remain so into the future.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Unfortunately, some people on my left clearly did not listen to me yesterday. The member for Capel's interjections were very unruly and unparliamentary, and he is called to order for the first time.