

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS — CONTAMINATED SITES LIABILITY

2875. Dr S.C. Thomas to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Are Government departments required or expected to report their contaminated sites liabilities in their annual reports?
- (2) If so, how many departments complied with those requirements, and how many failed to comply?
- (3) How many contaminated sites have now been reported?
- (4) How many contaminated sited have now been classified?
- (5) How many reported sites nominated for the register have not yet been assessed?
- (6) How many contaminated sites have been remediated?
- (7) How many current and previous landfill sites have been classified as contaminated sites?
- (8) How many current and previous landfill sites exist in Western Australia?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) There is no requirement Under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 for departments to disclose contaminated sites liabilities in their annual reports. However, the Department of Treasury and Finance has required that contaminated sites and suspected contaminated sites be disclosed in agencies' annual financial reports as contingent liabilities for the year ended 30 June 2007.
- (2) The Auditor General's Audit Results Report 2006-2007 tabled on 28 November 2007 reports that, based on DEC's electronic register of contaminated sites, a total of 23 agencies have reported sites.
- (3) Prior to commencement of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 on 1 December 2006, there was no requirement to report known or suspected contaminated sites.
Since the Act commenced, an estimated 1200 known or suspected contaminated sites have been reported at 20 February 2008.
- (4) As at 20 February 2008, a total of 595 sites have been classified under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003.
- (5) As at 20 February 2008, approximately 900 sites are still to be classified.
- (6) As at 20 February 2008, 32 sites have been classified 'remediated for restricted use', and nine sites have been classified 'decontaminated'.
- (7) As at 20 February 2008, two current or previous landfill sites have been classified 'contaminated - remediation required', two have been classified 'contaminated - restricted use' and three have been classified 'remediated for restricted use'.
- (8) As at 20 February 2008, there are 370 licensed or registered current landfill sites in Western Australia. In regard to previous landfill sites, the Government register of contaminated sites will provide a comprehensive record when the DEC has completed capturing the substantial number of reports made last year.