

WAGERUP ALUMINA REFINERY, EMISSIONS FROM LIQUOR BURNER

2143. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

In regard to the Wagerup Alumina Refinery -

- (1) On what date was the Department of Mines first informed about employee concerns about emissions from the liquor burner?
- (2) How and by whom was the Department informed?
- (3) When did the Inspector of Mines first take action on this matter?
- (4) When did he first request Alcoa to investigate and take action on the concerns?
- (5) Will the Minister table a copy of the Inspector's initial request to Alcoa and any other correspondence regarding liquor burner emissions during 1996 and 1997 between the Department and Alcoa?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I am advised:

1. A search of Departmental records indicates the first complaint concerning the Liquor Burner Unit was made on 2 May 1997.
2. Employees Inspector B Sherwood was undertaking an inspection of Alcoa Wagerup facilities on 2nd May 1997. During the inspection Mr W Van Der Pal an Alcoa employee made a complaint to Mr Sherwood regarding smells from the Liquor Burner Unit.
3. Immediately following the complaint Mr B Sherwood interviewed members of the workforce with regard to the smell.
4. On 5 May 1997 Mr R Sherwood, District Inspector of Mines wrote a Mine Record Book Entry recommending:
  - A committee be established to resolve the issues concerning the Liquor Burning Unit
  - Monitoring of gases and vapours being emitted from the Liquor Burning Building continue on a regular basis.
  - The cause of eye and respiratory complaints be investigated and appropriate steps taken to eliminate the source of complaints, or steps taken to reduce employee exposure.
5. I have asked the Department to search their records and locate for my tabling relevant correspondence that would ordinarily be available under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.
6. Not applicable.