

BROOKDALE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY, WASTE CONTROL FIRE SITE MATERIAL

346. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Further to my question on notice 623 of 27 September 2001, of the waste treated at the Brookdale facility which came from the Waste Control fire site, namely the contaminated fire water and 200kg of laboratory chemicals -

- (1) Was this waste analysed to determine its composition?
- (2) If so, will the Minister please table the report?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Did any of this waste contain Perchlorethylene or any other chlorinated substances, Aromatic Hydrocarbons or flammable and/or explosive liquids?
- (5) If so, will the Minister please provide details?
- (6) Does the Brookdale Liquid Waste Treatment Facility currently have approval to accept these types of waste?
- (7) If yes, please explain?
- (8) Will the Minister table the results of the analysis of the Waste Control fire waste that was taken to the South Cardup landfill?
- (9) If not, why not?
- (10) When did the Brookdale site install the chemical precipitation and stabilisation equipment needed to reduce the Waste Control fire waste to a level suitable for discharge to the sewer?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes, the waste was analysed.
- (2) I now table analysis reports on behalf of the Minister.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes, there were traces of perchlorethylene and aromatic hydrocarbons in the contaminated fire wash water. The laboratory waste included some aromatic hydrocarbons and chlorinated substances.
- (5) As detailed in the tabled report, there were traces of perchlorethylene and aromatic hydrocarbons in the contaminated fire wash water. The laboratory waste included aromatic hydrocarbons.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) These wastes were treated at the Brookdale Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (LWTF) in accordance with an Environmental Protection Authority exemption to the Ministerial directive for the site. The current environmental approvals for the facility apply to the bulk transport of wastes for treatment by the Biological and Industrial Treatment plants.

In response to industry and community needs, operations at the LWTF expanded to manage packaged wastes classified as hazardous. It is important to note that storage and handling of these wastes is undertaken in accordance with Dangerous Goods regulations administered by the Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources. These operations are highly specialised and, at the current time, no other facilities are able to offer this service.

In August 1998, the then Minister for the Environment was informed that the facility was operating outside its approvals, but the then Minister did not request these activities to cease.

- (8) Yes, I now table the analysis report on behalf of the Minister. [See paper No 1224.]
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) This equipment was approved as a component of the original Environmental Approvals for the plant in 1989. The equipment was constructed in the early 1990's.