104 FANSTONE AVENUE, AIR QUALITY MONITOR

1551. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

With regard to the Cockburn Cement Ltd Munster air quality monitor located at 104 Fanstone Avenue, I ask -

(1) Is the minister aware that this monitor receives only about eight per cent of the downwind breezes from Cockburn Cement's Munster plant?

(2) Does the Department of Environmental Protection consider that the siting of this monitor will give a complete and accurate measure of total emissions?

(3) What action has the Department of Environmental Protection taken to respond to the community request that this monitor be relocated?

(4) Are there any other air monitoring devices to measure emissions from the Cockburn Cement facility and where are these located?

(5) If there are insufficient air monitors to accurately measure emissions, will the minister ensure that more air monitors are installed?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

On behalf of the Minister for the Environment, the answer is as follows -

(1) The analysis by the Department of Environmental Protection does not confirm this assertion. The DEP has previously addressed this issue, which was raised by a community member with the locally established community working group.

(2) The Fanstone Avenue site was originally selected because it enabled localised impacts of particulates and sulfur dioxide to be determined as close as possible to the area from which most complaints were received. On this basis, the monitor supplied the best information possible at the site. Other monitors are located in proximity to CCL and form part of the wider Kwinana airshed air quality monitoring network, which provides additional data to give a far more comprehensive picture of emissions within close proximity to CCL's Munster plant. The wider network has been in existence for many years in various forms and has never indicated an exceedance of relevant air quality standards for particulates or sulfur dioxide.

(3) A recent health risk assessment by the Department of Health of an air emissions study undertaken at the plant indicated that CCL's emissions should not present a health risk to the surrounding community. However, the Department of Health recommended that broader ambient monitoring be undertaken to further verify aspects of its assessment. CCL is currently progressing development of an ambient monitoring program, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and the CWG, and some additional monitoring has already commenced. In addition, the Kwinana airshed gap emissions study, which is expected to be completed soon, will provide further advice on air-quality monitoring locations within the ambient airshed.

(4) In addition to the continuous stack emissions monitoring equipment at the site, the proposed CCL ambient monitoring program includes Osiris dust monitors, Hi-volume samplers, TEOM, NOx, SOx. The monitoring program will also cover a comprehensive range of compounds, and final details on locations for best measurement are currently being determined. Additional monitors already exist at Miguel Road, Wattleup, South Lake and Hope Valley, and all contribute to establishing a comprehensive emissions picture within the airshed.

(5) Stage 2 of the Kwinana airshed gap emissions study will identify any deficiencies with the existing monitoring arrangements and provide recommendations to the DEP on how best to address any gaps in these ambient monitoring programs. The gap emissions study has been developed in consultation with the community, and outcomes of the report will be addressed in consultation with the community and industry.