

CLEAN-UP OF CONTAMINATED WATER AND SITES

1487. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) Does the budget for the Department of Environmental Protection contain an allocation for -
 - (a) the remediation of the trichlorethylene-contaminated ground water under Subiaco;
 - (b) the clean-up and remediation of the 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol dumped in a landfill in Dwellingup; and
 - (c) the clean-up of any of the hundreds of other known contaminated sites in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, how will the clean-up and remediation of each of these sites be funded?
- (3) Given that the DEP was unable to adequately fulfil its functions with the meagre budget allocations provided by the previous Government, how can the Minister for the Environment improve regulation and monitoring and prevent the creation of more contamination and pollution incidents with 17.5 per cent less funding?
- (4) Does this Government give a lower priority to pollution issues than its predecessor?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response -

- (1)
 - (a) The DEP budget does not include an allocation for remediation of the TCE-contaminated ground water under Subiaco. The Subiaco Redevelopment Authority is investigating this issue, and it is premature at this stage to comment on potential management responses and budget responsibilities.
 - (b) The DEP budget does not include an allocation for remediation of the 2,4,5-T at Dwellingup. Costs associated with this work are currently being managed within the department's existing budget.
 - (c) No. Funding for the clean-up of any other contaminated sites is subject to individual decisions, and generally is the responsibility of the site owner or occupier. The DEP is unlikely to be the proponent for future orphan contaminated sites clean-ups.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The DEP's budget has not been cut by 17.5 per cent as stated. The apparent reduction arises from removal of a number of one-off expenses that were included in the 2001-02 budget, including \$2.4 million for Mt Walton disposal, \$540 000 for the Vela Luka Park clean-up and \$850 000 for the Morangup clean-up.
- (4) No.