

HAZARDOUS WASTE SOLUTIONS SITE, BELLEVUE

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

Further to questions without notice 57 and 58 of Tuesday, 29 May 2001, which related to the Hazardous Waste Solutions site in Bellevue, I ask -

- (1) Has the Department of Environmental Protection approached Hazardous Waste Solutions for an agreement to test soil on the site for contamination?
- (2) If yes, what was the company's response?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Which provisions in section 73 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 prevent the DEP undertaking soil testing on the site and require the DEP to seek permission from the owner-polluter to carry out soil tests on the site?
- (5) How can the DEP ensure the safety of workers on the site without knowing the extent of soil pollution on the site?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Environmental Protection does not have the power to require soil testing under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (4) I refer the member to section 73 of the Environmental Protection Act -

Hon J.A. Scott: That is not correct.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The member may or may not be correct. However, it is correct that the minister has told me to give this answer to the member's questions.

- (5) Worker safety is the responsibility of WorkSafe WA, not the DEP. Workers engaged in the clean-up of the Hazardous Waste Solutions site following the fire have been provided with the necessary -

Hon Jim Scott interjected.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I will complete the answer. I missed the interjection. Will the member repeat it?

Hon J.A. Scott: What about the responsibility as an employer?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Perhaps the minister ought to answer the question, rather than the interjection.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Nonetheless, I will draw the interjection to the attention of the minister. Workers engaged in the clean-up of the Hazardous Waste Solutions site following the fire have been provided with the necessary personal protective equipment, and liaison with WorkSafe WA is ongoing.