

ALCOA WAGERUP REFINERY EXPANSION, INCREASED PRODUCTION OF ALUMINA

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

- (1) Will the Minister for the Environment confirm whether the expansion of the Alcoa Wagerup refinery will enable an increase in the production of alumina by two million tonnes and that the total amount of ore passing through the refinery will increase by many millions of tonnes?
- (2) Can the Minister for the Environment explain how this massive increase of throughput can be achieved without increasing emissions of dust, noise and noxious gases?
- (3) What audits or other studies have been carried out at the refinery that show that the production of an additional one million to two million tonnes of alumina will produce no additional dust, noise or noxious gas?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment provides the following reply -

- (1) At this stage no formal proposal for an expansion of the Wagerup refinery has been received. A brochure produced by Alcoa highlights the production increase by about two million tonnes.
- (2) Should Alcoa lodge a formal application for the proposal with the Environmental Protection Authority, it will be required to provide a detailed assessment of the environmental implications for such a proposal.
- (3) See (1) and (2).