

BARROW ISLAND, INCINERATOR

**1048. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:**

I congratulate the Minister for Housing and Works on his early appearance today!

Hon Tom Stephens: It is very nice to be able to drop by and be here today!

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Jim Scott will not encourage bad behaviour.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that an incinerator has been established on Barrow Island to burn refuse generated by oil industry workers?
- (2) What pollution control equipment, if any, has been installed on the incinerator to prevent heavy metal and dioxin emissions from impacting on local ecosystems?
- (3) Where and how is the contaminated incinerated fly ash and bottom ash disposed of?
- (4) What level of environmental assessment was applied to the incinerator proposal by either the Department of Environmental Protection or the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (5) Was the incinerator proposal approved by the Department of Environmental Protection; and, if yes, when?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

I thank the member for his welcome. As he appreciates, I have had a bit of a rough week and it is nice to be able to drop back into slumber land in the Chamber!

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. In 1995-96 the incinerator was replaced and upgraded to burn putrescible and office waste at high temperature and reduce the amount of waste to landfill.
- (2) Pollution control is through limiting the waste stream to putrescible and office waste, high-temperature incineration, and five-metre stacks.
- (3) Ash is disposed of to landfill category 64, class 2, on site. The nature of the waste stream minimises risk of contaminated ash.
- (4) The proposal was not assessed as it was under the 100 kilogram an hour waste stream trigger for assessment.
- (5) As the proposal was under the assessment trigger, it does not require a Department of Environmental Protection licence.