

BROOKDALE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT, CONFLICT OF INTEREST

409. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Does the Minister accept that the recent pollution problems at the Brookdale Waste Disposal Plant are partly due to the conflict of interest between the Department of Environmental Protection's role as operator and regulator of this facility?
  - (2) What plans does the Minister have to resolve this conflict of interest?
  - (3) When does the Government intend to establish an independent WA Waste Management Authority as promised prior to the 2001 State Election?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) There is no evidence of pollution problems at Brookdale. If the Honourable Member has any information regarding pollution at Brookdale this should be made available to the Department of Environmental Protection.  
  
The recent problems at the Brookdale facility are due to a loss of community trust in the management regime. This loss of trust was created when the previous Government did not inform the wider Brookdale community that hazardous waste was being taken to the facility outside of environmental approvals.
  - (2) It is intended to address the conflict of interest between the DEP and Waste Management WA, which was created by the previous Government, by transferring responsibility for operations at the Brookdale site to the Water Corporation which owns the site. The DEP can then resume its role as a regulator instead of the EPA.
  - (3) The Government committed to examine the need for an independent Waste Management Authority. The Machinery of Government process resulted in a decision not to proceed with this proposal, however, this Government has created the Waste Management Board to provide overarching independent advice to Government on waste management policy issues.
-