

CSBP SITE, ASHFIELD

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

I refer to the CSBP contaminated sites in Ashfield.

- (1) Is pollution leaving the sites in ground water; and, if so, will the minister or the Department of Environmental Protection be applying a pollution abatement notice to the sites; and, if not, why not?
- (2) In the event that a pollution abatement notice is applied to the sites, will the minister ensure that the conditions of that pollution abatement notice require Wesfarmers CSBP Ltd to hand over all information about the pollution plume, and will that information be made public; and, if not, why not?
- (3) If the DEP and/or the minister are in possession of information that reveals health risks to members of the community, how can the minister justify withholding that information from those people at risk?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Environmental Protection had noted in the Wesfarmers CSBP report on St Patrick's Day 2003 - my interpolation to the date in the minister's answer - that the ground water flow is generally towards the Swan River, which lies approximately 1.4 kilometres to the south, and off-site migration of the contaminants coincides with the ground water flow direction. Further to this statement, the DEP has required CSBP to provide data to legally establish whether off-site impacts have occurred, and is currently awaiting this information from CSBP.
- (2) It may not be possible to require such a request to be included in a pollution abatement notice. Should the need arise, the DEP would seek the advice of the Crown Solicitor's Office.
- (3) The DEP issued a warning via a press release on 21 March 2003 because it has been provided with information which indicated a potential risk. CSBP has provided additional information to the community, and is currently undertaking investigations to assist in determining whether an actual risk exists.