

DUST SUPPRESSANTS, ALCOA AUSTRALIA LTD

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

- (1) Has either the department to be known as the Department of Environment, Water and Catchment Protection or the Environmental Protection Authority given any form of approval for Alcoa Australia Ltd to use waste oil as a dust suppressant at the Alcoa Wagerup, Pinjarra or Kwinana facilities?
- (2) Do the Alcoa Wagerup, Pinjarra or Kwinana facilities currently use waste oil as a dust suppressant on site or in the residue disposal areas?
- (3) Does the EPA or DEWCP endorse the use of waste oil as a dust suppressant in this State?
- (4) Is the Department of Environmental Protection aware of any negative environmental or human health impacts associated with the use of waste oil as a dust suppressant?
- (5) What other chemical-based dust suppressants are used in Western Australia?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response.

- (1)-(2) Alcoa has approval to use, and does use, water-based emulsions containing waste oil generated from its operations as a dust suppressant within the lined and bunded residue disposal areas at its facilities.
- (3) The Department of Environmental Protection does not endorse the use of waste oil as a dust suppressant on mine sites. The practice of using emulsions has generally been phased out with ongoing licence reviews. A brief overview undertaken in response to this question indicates that the DEP endorses the use of water-based emulsions containing waste oil only within the lined and bunded residue disposal areas at the Alcoa facilities.
- (4) The DEP is not aware of any adverse impacts associated with the use of water-based waste oil emulsions at the Alcoa facilities.
- (5) A wide variety of chemical-based dust suppressants, ranging from saline water to proprietary products, are used in Western Australia.