

WATER RESOURCES, QUANTITIES REQUIRED FOR HISMELT, WORSLEY AND ALCOA
FACILITIES

2364. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

- (1) Can the Minister inform the House what quantities of water will be required for the operation of the following facilities -
- (a) the Hismelt Steel facility;
 - (b) the expansion of production at Worsley Alumina facility;
 - (c) the expansion of production at Alcoa Wagerup; and
 - (d) the expansion of Alcoa Pinjarra?
- (2) For each of the above, where will the water be sourced?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I am advised:

- 1 (a) Hismelt project Stage 1 (now under construction) will use approximately 4 gigalitres (GL) per year.
- (b) The proposed Worsley alumina refinery expansion from its current capacity of 3.2Mt/a to 4.4Mt/a will require an additional 3.5 GL water per year.
- (c) Water supply evaluations are part of the ERMP preparation and stakeholder consultation programs currently under way for the Wagerup refinery expansion project, therefore the following information is preliminary.
- At this time it is estimated the proposed Wagerup Unit 3 expansion would require an additional 4.3gigalitres (GL) per annum for process water requirements and dust suppression. Studies to be conducted on this issue during the ERMP preparation include:
- confirmation of water requirements;
 - impact assessment of proposed abstraction;
 - potential water use efficiency improvements.
- (d) The Pinjarra alumina refinery Efficiency Upgrade will increase the water use at the refinery by 1.1GL per annum.
- 2 (a) For the Hismelt project Stage 1 (now under construction) some 4GL per annum is to be supplied by the Kwinana Wastewater Recycling Plant (»3 GL per annum), with the balance to be scheme water.
- (b) The proposed Worsley alumina refinery expansion will source its water from its current freshwater lake at the refinery. However, during periods of low rainfall, additional water supply may need to be imported from an external water resource. Options are currently being assessed by Worsley.
- (c) The additional water supply for the Wagerup alumina refinery is likely to be sourced from a combination of reuse opportunities, on-site harvesting and where appropriate, from the Harvey River system.
- (d) To supply the additional requirements for the Pinjarra alumina refinery, Alcoa is working with the Water Corporation to access recycled water from Mandurah.