

NORTHBRIDGE TUNNEL, ROAD SURFACE SEALANT

357. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Transport:

In relation to repairs to the Northbridge Tunnel road surface to be carried out in August 2000 -

- (1) What silicone sealant will the contractor inject into the tunnel floor?
- (2) What quantity of sealant will be used?
- (3) Have studies been carried out as to the potential of this sealant to leach into the underground water?
- (4) If so, will the Minister name them and who carried them out?
- (5) Has this maintenance procedure been assessed by the EPA?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

- (1) The contractor has used a product called BBZ Duraseal Inject which belongs, chemically, to the group of hydrogels to repair cracks in the tunnel floor. The product is a solvent-free water-soluble injection resin, which swells when in contact with water. The material and its use has been accepted for the repair of cracks in contact with potable water.
- (2) The approximate quantity used in the August repairs is 75 litres.
- (3) The product once injected into the crack and coming into contact with water within the crack, takes on a hardened nature and is not expected to escape from beneath the underside of the floor slab. However, Duraseal Inject has been tested in Germany and certified for use in contact with potable water.
- (4) The supplier has provided a certificate from the Hygiene Institute in Gelsenkirchen, Germany which shows no adverse reaction of the product with potable water.
- (5)-(6) The maintenance procedure has not been assessed by the EPA. However the product has been approved for use by several water authorities in Australia. The contractor understands that historically, the use of the product has not raised any environmental issues.