

COCKBURN SOUND, WASTE DISCHARGE

34. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Further to Question on Notice 1711 tabled on August 15 2000 -

- (1) Has the Department of Environmental Protection issued new licenses to companies to discharge waste substances into Cockburn Sound?
- (2) If yes, for each licence holder -
  - (a) what substances can be discharged;
  - (b) what is the quantity of each substance allowed to be discharged; and
  - (c) when does each licence expire?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes. The same companies discharging to Cockburn Sound since Parliamentary Question 1711 of 2000 was answered have had their licences renewed for up to a one year period.

- (2) (a) & (b) The substances and quantity of substances that premises are currently permitted to discharge into Cockburn Sound, pursuant to licence conditions, are listed separately and I seek leave to table this document. These substances represent the key kinds of wastes discharged to Cockburn Sound as determined by the DEP. [See paper No 425.]

It should be recognised that other substances, such as salt (i.e. sodium chloride), may also be present in a discharge. The substances which are licensed are those considered to be the most environmentally significant within the context of the environment they are being discharged into.

The Environmental Protection Act 1986 provides other powers to deal with other substances that may be discharged to the environment. For example, the Act provides powers to deal with pollution and unreasonable emissions. It allows for prescribed standards to be set, Pollution Abatement Notices and Directions to be served and Regulations to be made.

- (c) The Licences expire as follows:

Wesfarmers CSBP Limited, expires on 30 September 2001;

BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty. Ltd, expires on 28 April 2002;

Millenium Performance Chemicals (Advanced Ceramics) Pty Ltd, expires on 10 December 2001;

Tiwest Pty. Ltd, expires on 30 September 2001;

Western Power Corporation, expires on 13 October 2001; and

Water Corporation, expires on 30 September 2001.

No additional companies have been licensed to discharge substances to Cockburn Sound.