

COCKBURN CEMENT LTD, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENCES

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

- (1) Is the current Department of Environmental Protection licence for the Cockburn Cement Ltd works in Munster legally enforceable?
- (2) Were previous DEP licences for Cockburn Cement Ltd legally enforceable?
- (3) Has the independent environmental review and audit of Cockburn Cement concluded that -
  - (a) the licence conditions were unable to sufficiently control pollution discharges into the environment; and
  - (b) the company's licence conditions cannot provide the Department of Environment and Water Catchment Protection with the information needed to assess whether Cockburn Cement is in compliance with its licence conditions?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

The minister has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. In general the current Department of Environmental Protection licence for Cockburn Cement Ltd is legally enforceable under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The department is currently reviewing enforceability aspects of individual conditions.
- (2) Yes. Previous DEP licences for Cockburn Cement Ltd are legally enforceable under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
- (3)
  - (a) The auditor concluded that the licence conditions were unable to sufficiently control all emissions from Cockburn Cement Ltd, and that the licence did not comprehensively address all aspects of the operation with the potential to pollute.
  - (b) The auditor concluded that in some instances the licence was deficient in specifying the standard of reporting to ensure sufficient information was provided to establish compliance.