

WASTE TYRES, DISPOSAL POLICY

411. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Does the Government have a waste tyre policy?
 - (2) If yes, where is it available?
 - (3) If not, why not?
 - (4) Where are waste tyres being disposed of in Perth?
 - (5) Are any waste tyres being recycled?
 - (6) How many waste tyres are going to landfill per annum in Perth?
 - (7) Are any waste tyres being burnt?
 - (8) If so, where?
 - (9) Are waste tyres from Perth being dumped in regional areas due to a lack of suitable disposal sites in Perth?
 - (10) Have the clean-up costs of the 1991 Bindoon tyre fire been recovered yet from the owners of that site?
 - (11) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

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

- (1) The Government is in the process of finalising a policy position in relation to used tyres. This has been reviewed in light of a national discussion paper released in October 2002 by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, "A National Approach to Used Tyres".
- (2) Once the position paper has been accepted by the Waste Management Board it will be released for public input prior to finalising a policy position.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Waste tyres are currently being disposed to licensed landfills, with some heavy duty tyres sent to businesses for recovery of rubber crumb. A small proportion of passenger and truck tyres has an extended life through retreading.
- (5) Yes, but these are mainly truck tyres, due to the higher rubber content. Some tyres are also being re-used for engineering purposes (retaining) or drainage. The total diversion is estimated at 15%.
- (6) Approximately 8,850 tonnes of tyres were disposed to landfill during 2002.
- (7) No.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Some waste tyres are taken from the metropolitan area to regional areas for use as deep drainage in saline areas. This activity requires a DEP licence. Two sites, located at Meekatharra and West Dale, are licensed to landfill only tyres. They may in the future be recovered for reuse.
- (10) No
- (11) The full cost of the cleanup was \$605,378.92. This was not recovered, but on the basis of legal advice, the matter was resolved with the defendants agreeing to pay \$40,000 inclusive of costs with the Supreme Court proceedings discontinued with no formal order as to costs.