

COCKBURN CEMENT LTD, LICENCE NONCOMPLIANCE

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

Further to my question without notice of Thursday, 15 August 2003 about Cockburn Cement Ltd -

- (1) Given that the environmental audit and review of the Cockburn Cement Ltd plant identified numerous instances of licence noncompliance, will the Department of Environmental Protection enforce Cockburn Cement's licence by prosecuting these breaches?
- (2)
 - (a) Has the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection referred the matter of licence breaches to Crown Law for advice on enforcement options?
 - (b) If yes, when did this referral take place?
- (3) What other cement industries in Western Australia have licence conditions that are not legally enforceable?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The independent auditor concluded that there were a number of instances in which compliance was not established. The Department of Environmental Protection is undertaking an assessment of the potential breaches highlighted in the audit to determine if there are sufficient grounds for enforcement action.
- (2)
 - (a) No. The chief executive officer has not referred the matter to the Crown Solicitor's Office.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (3) The enforcement and compliance unit recently announced by the minister will be reviewing the licence to ensure that licence conditions are legally enforceable.