

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES, COMPLETION

196. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) When will the Environmental Protection Policy for the State's Groundwater be completed?
 - (2) When will the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for the Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands be completed?
 - (3) When will the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for the Western Swamp Tortoise be completed?
 - (4) When will the State Greenhouse Policy be released for public comment?
 - (5) Has the Greenhouse Policy been withheld until large greenhouse gas emitting projects such as a HiSmelt and Methanex have been approved?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Amendments are required to the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to provide for Statewide Environmental Protection Policies in the manner envisaged in the Draft Environmental Protection (State Groundwater) Policy. These amendments form part of the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2002, currently before the Legislative Assembly.
- (2) The Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy is yet to be completed. The Minister anticipates releasing a 'green paper' proposing some changes to the Policy for further consultation prior to finalising it.
- (3) The Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise) Policy is nearing completion. Parliamentary Counsel is preparing the document for Gazettal.
- (4) The State Greenhouse Strategy will be released for comment after all submissions from environmental, industry, academic, land-use and agricultural groups have been received, analysed and fed into the process of policy development. A public engagement process will also form part of the Strategy finalisation prior to its release.
- (5) No.