

BROOKDALE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, TOXIC INDUSTRIAL WASTES

395. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Did the DEP approve the handling of noxious and or toxic industrial wastes at the Brookdale Waste Water Treatment plant in the years 1989 to 1996?
 - (2) In 1990, did an employee from Cleanaway raise concerns with the DEP regarding the handling of noxious/toxic industrial wastes at Brookdale because it did not have appropriate facilities for that type of waste?
 - (3) Can the Minister provide details of those complaints?
 - (4) What action did the DEP take regarding these complaints?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised me that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (formerly named the Environmental Protection Authority until 1994) was the regulator for the Brookdale Liquid Waste Treatment Facility between 1989 and 1996. Neither the former, nor the current Environmental Department granted the proponent the approval to accept wastes deemed hazardous under environmental approvals, ie. Ministerial statements and the licence issued under Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The DEP did, however, issue a Works Approvals on 18 December 1992, to trial the treatment of Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and low level pesticide wastes.
- (2) There are considerable records pertaining to the regulation and operation of this facility, including files from the Department of Health. A search through the records available to the DEP at the current time was unable to locate a reference to concerns raised by a Cleanaway employee, regarding the handling of noxious/toxic industrial waste in 1990.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) Answered by (2).