

WATER RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY (STATE GROUND WATER)

518. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the existence of the draft Environmental Protection Policy (State Groundwater) which was released by her predecessor for public comment in 1997?
  - (2) In view of the State's water crisis and its heavy reliance on groundwater, why hasn't this policy been completed?
  - (3) Does the Minister intend to finalise this policy?
  - (4) If yes, when?
  - (5) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has advised that she is aware of the draft policy.
- (2) This policy has not been developed further as it has been awaiting amendments to the Environmental Protection Act that will enable its implementation in a regional and statewide context.
- (3) The policy will be finalised as per (2).
- (4) Following amendments to the Environmental Protection Act.
- (5) Not applicable.