

BIOWISE COMPOSTING FACILITY, KWINANA

88. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
In relation to the Minister's media announcement on June 7 2001 on the establishment of a new composting facility, Biowise, in Kwinana -

- (1) What are the 'other wastes', besides biosolids, that will be used by this process?
- (2) What are the 'low environmental and health risks' that have been identified with this process?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Biowise works approval application (dated August 2000) lists green waste, food waste and biosolids as the raw materials that will be used in the Biowise composting process. The Biowise Technical Outline also suggests that organic sludges may be processed.
- (2) Potential environmental risks associated with the Biowise facility include odour, dust, noise and contamination of soil/groundwater from leachate. The risks are low because the facility has been designed to minimise environmental impacts and an Environmental Management Plan is in place.

Health risks include vector / pest problems and exposure to chemical or organic contaminants or pathogens. The risks are low because measures to avoid and manage vector / pest problems are in place and addressed in the Environmental Management Plan, and Biowise have committed to producing compost in accordance with the draft National Guidelines Sewerage Systems – Biosolids Management and AS 4454-1997: Composts, soil conditioners and mulches.