

WASTE DISPOSAL, ATLAS SITE, PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DIGESTER

847. Hon Jim Scott to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

- (1) Did the Premier give a commitment to the Mirrabooka Action Group that his Government would not give new planning permission that would threaten the use of the Atlas site in Alexander Drive, Noranda for parks and recreation?
- (2) Is the Premier aware of a proposal to reopen the failed digester equipment on the site?
- (3) Will the Premier oppose planning permission for the digester on this site?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) Prior to coming to Government a commitment was given that a Labor Government would not support any further planning approvals that would extend the period of non conforming use of the Atlas waste disposal site in Mirrabooka. Under legislation, the WAPC is an independent authority responsible for the determination of all applications to commence development on the land.
- (2) I am informed that a development application was approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) on 17 July 2003 for the upgrading of an existing process vessel which treats solid organic waste on this site. The approval was granted for a limited time only, namely for a period expiring on 15 July 2004 after which time a further development application is required to be determined by the Western Australian Planning Commission if expansion of the process or continuation of the trial period is proposed. I understand that the approval is for the trial of a process new to Western Australia which, if proven viable, may have significant environmental benefits. The approval does not extend the non-conforming use beyond its final date.
- (3) I am informed that all of the current planning approvals on the land are time limited and that the development with the longest period of approval is timed to expire in 2010. The WAPC has indicated that, on the facts currently before it, it is unlikely to grant any approvals that would extend beyond that time. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has advised she will ensure the WAPC is aware that the Government policy is not permitting approvals beyond 2010.