

WASTE CONTROL PTY LTD, FIRE AT BELMONT

99. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) Have the activities at the Waste Control Pty Ltd fire site at Bellevue been subject to an environmental impact assessment process?
- (2) If so, can the minister give details; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Has the Waste Control fire site in Bellevue been subject to any on-site soil testing?
- (4) If so, can the minister detail results; and, if not, why not?
- (5) What guarantee can the minister provide to the Bellevue community and the on-site workers at the Waste Control fire site that activities at the site will not pose an increased risk to their health and wellbeing?
- (6) Does the Waste Control fire site currently pose a risk to -
 - (a) the health of the Bellevue community;
 - (b) the environment; or
 - (c) the health of workers?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) The activities at the Waste Control Pty Ltd site are being conducted under the authority of a section 73 direction that is intended to prevent pollution arising from the fire of 15 February 2001. These activities were not referred to the Environmental Protection Authority due to the need for immediate action.
- (3) No.
- (4) Under section 73 there is power to address only off-site contamination. Further, the site is privately owned, so the Department of Environmental Protection cannot unilaterally undertake any testing on the site as this is the responsibility of the owner.
- (5) The proposed method of drum treatment poses minimal risk to the Bellevue community due to the design of the treatment equipment, which incorporates several pollution-control features, and the smaller quantities of waste being handled at any time.
- (6)
 - (a) I am informed that the Waste Control site poses minimal risk to the health of the Bellevue community.
 - (b) The risk posed to the environment is being determined.
 - (c) The health of workers on the site is a matter for WorkSafe WA, and I have referred this matter to the Minister for Labour Relations for reply.