

BP REFINERY, KWINANA

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

- (1) Was the Department of Environmental Protection informed that the BP refinery at Kwinana had an incident resulting in an abnormally large flaring, high levels of pollution and spot fires?
- (2) Did representatives of BP report this incident, or was it reported by some other person?
- (3) What was the cause of the incident?
- (4) When did the incident occur and when was it brought under control?
- (5) Were surrounding industries, residents and emergency services notified of any risks from the incident?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Department of Environmental Protection was advised of the incident on Friday, 19 October 2001 at the BP refinery in Kwinana causing a large flame and black smoke to be emitted as a result of the onsite flare.
- (2) Both representatives of the BP refinery and other persons reported the incident to the DEP.
- (3) Instrument problems caused the normal onsite flaring to be more substantial and to continue for longer than anticipated.
- (4) A number of incidents occurred on Friday, 19 October in relation to the flare, with the earliest report from the BP refinery being at 5.02 pm. The black smoke and flare issues were under control by 10.00 pm that day.
- (5) No. BP did not consider that the incident would compromise the safety of the community.