

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 1998, IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

650. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Further to question on notice No. 519 of March 20 2002 -

- (1) Can the Minister please explain why she does not intend to audit the outcomes of the 1998 State of the Environment Report before the next report is prepared?
- (2) How does the Minister intend to ensure that the valuable recommendations of the 1998 State of the Environment Report are implemented?
- (3) What action does the Minister intend to take if she finds in several years time that these recommendations have not been implemented?
- (4) Does the Minister realise that careful State of the Environment Reporting, combined with auditing and follow up is essential for sustainability?
- (5) If yes, why then has she failed to ensure that this happens?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The auditing of outcomes of the 1998 State of the Environment Report (SOER) is intended to form part of the next SOER program.
- (2) The document Environmental Action (December 1999) will form the basis of Government' response to the SOER and, as stated in the response to Question 519 of 20 March 2002: 'It is anticipated that all Government agencies would have continued to implement their agreed and funded programs. The effectiveness of these actions is one area where the EPA will review as part of the next round of SoE Reporting'.
- (3) It is inappropriate to speculate on this matter.
- (4)-(5) The Minister advises that the Government sees SOER as an important part of its sustainability strategy, which is currently being developed.