

BLAIR FOX POULTRY LITTER INCINERATOR, MUCHEA

2420. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Regarding the Blair Fox Poultry Litter Incinerator proposal at Muchea -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the establishment of this proposal would not comply with our obligations to the Stockholm Convention, Article 5, which covers the Unintentional Production of Annex C chemicals (PCBs, Dioxins and Furans)?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the proposal would be defined as an incineration plant under the European Council's Waste Incineration Directive?
- (3) Did the Minister, or her Department, have any input to the DEP's advice that the Health Risk Assessment for this proposal did not require an evaluation of the cancer risk?
- (4) If yes to (3), will the Minister table that input?
- (5) Is the Minister aware the ash waste will contain dioxins, furans and heavy metals?
- (6) Has a triple bottom line analysis been carried out on this proposal by the Government?
- (7) If so, will the Minister table it?
- (8) Has the Government subjected the proposal to a Sustainability Assessment?
- (9) If so, will the Minister table that assessment?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

- (1) The issue of the release of dioxins and furans (and other emissions) was investigated and addressed through the formal environmental (and health risks) assessment process. The report concluded that it is unlikely that the EPA objectives would be compromised, provided the proponent implemented their stated commitments and the conditions recommended by the EPA.
- (2) The EPA Bulletin of December 2002 does make reference to the standards provided in the Directive to assess the proposal and makes recommendations based on the ability of the proposal to meet the required emission limits.
- (3) No.
- (4) N/A.
- (5) Yes. The report of the EPA documents expected emissions include dioxins, furans and heavy metals. These were investigated and addressed through the formal environmental process.
- (6) The proposal has not been through the formal planning process. It requires an amendment to either the current or the new town planning scheme for the Shire of Chittering and this is required to be referred under Section 48A of the EPA Act to the Environmental Protection Authority for environmental assessment. If the environmental assessment process allows the proposal to proceed, the proposal will go through the planning process which includes advertising and community consultation. A decision on the amendment will then be made based on a detailed examination of the planning issues, which includes triple bottom line analysis, sustainability assessment and the outcomes of the consultation process.
- (7) N/A
- (8) No. Refer to (6)
- (9) N/A.