

WIND FARM, GERALDTON AND DESALINATION PLANT, KWINANA

2422. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Government Enterprises

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Alinta has announced the go-ahead for a 90 megawatt wind farm near Geraldton?
- (2) Was the Minister aware of this wind farm proposal when she reviewed the proposed Kwinana desalination plant?
- (3) Does the Minister still maintain that there is insufficient renewable energy available to power the proposed Kwinana desalination plant?
- (4) If yes, please explain?
- (5) If no, will the Minister reconsider the energy supply for the desalination plant?
- (6) Does the Minister believe that the Government and its Agencies should be setting an example of best practice in greenhouse gas abatement?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) If yes, how can she justify her decision to approve the use of fossil fuels to power the proposed Kwinana desalination plant?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Yes
- (3) The Water Corporation won the 2003 Australian Greenhouse Challenge Gold Award, a highly prestigious award voted on each year by the Australian Greenhouse Office. The Corporation's use of 7% renewable energy was an important component, amongst many other actions, in achieving this national recognition.
- (4) Not applicable
- (5) No
- (6) Yes
- (7) Not applicable
- (8) The use of electricity generated using low emission natural gas, along with the commitment to offset the greenhouse emissions by sequestration, is a very strong demonstration of efficient greenhouse gas abatement.