

SMOKY VEHICLES, NUMBER OF REPORTS AND EMISSION TESTING

2484. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

Further to question No. 2326 of September 21 2004 -

- (1) How many smoky vehicles were reported to the Department of the Environment for the years -
  - (a) 2000;
  - (b) 2001;
  - (c) 2002; and
  - (d) 2003?
- (2) How many of these vehicles were reported on more than one occasion?
- (3) How many smoky vehicle reports has the Department received this year to the end of September?
- (4) When did the Department stop advertising the smoky vehicle hot line in *The West Australian*?
- (5) What action has been taken in regard to vehicles that have been reported to the Department of the Environment?
- (6) How many of these vehicles have been required to undergo emissions testing?
- (7) Have any of the owners of these vehicles been prosecuted or required to take remedial action as a result of these reports?
- (8) What capabilities does the Department or the Government have for the testing of emissions from smoky vehicles?
- (9) Does the Minister acknowledge that vehicle emissions are one of the major causes of Perth's smog problems?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

1. The database statistics are:
  - (a) 2001 - 2213 reports;
  - (b) 2001 - 1842 reports;
  - (c) 2002 - 401 reports; and
  - (d) 2003 - 895 reports.
2. A total of 318 vehicles was reported twice from 2000 -2003.
3. 544 reports have been received from 1 January to 30 September 2004.
4. The Smoky Vehicle Hotline has been replaced by the Department of Environment's pollution incident reporting line which directs callers to the service they require, such as incident reporting and smoky vehicles. The pollution incident line is advertised in the White Pages telephone directory, and on the Department's Internet site.
5. Owners of vehicles that are reported more than twice within three months are sent a letter advising that the excessive smoke emissions should be rectified. If a vehicle is reported more than five times, it is referred to the WA Police Service for follow up. This enforcement process is under review.
6. Reported vehicles do not undergo emissions testing, as the smoke emissions are visible to the naked eye.
7. The majority of vehicles are only reported once or twice. The Department of Environment does not have an enforcement role in relation to smoky vehicles, as the relevant legislation is under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Standards) Regulations which are enforced by the WA Police Service and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. Three vehicles that were reported more than five times were followed up by the WA Police Service.
8. The Government does not own the equipment required to undertake vehicle exhaust emissions testing, however, these tests can be done by at least one commercial company in the Perth metropolitan area.
9. Yes.