

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CATCHMENT PROTECTION, REVIEW

14. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Has the Minister been made aware of the causes of the regulatory failures documented in 'The Environmental Audit and Review of Cockburn Cement Ltd', and in 'Volume Two of the Inquiry Report into the Waste Control Fire in Bellevue?
- (2) What steps will the Minister take to address these failures and to protect communities and the environment from harmful industrial emission sources?
- (3) Will the Minister establish an independent review of the DEWCP's -
- (a) licensing procedures;
  - (b) audit and monitoring procedures including industry self assessments;
  - (c) the level and scope of technical competency of staff;
  - (d) adequacy of resources to fulfil DEWCP's regulatory duties; and
  - (e) staff morale?
- (4) If not, what action will the Minister take to improve the performance of DEWCP?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Minister has been briefed on the findings of both the audit report and the Bellevue fire inquiry.
- (2) The Directors General of several Government departments are coordinating the Government's response to the Bellevue fire inquiry. The Minister will report back to Parliament on actions in response to the inquiry by the end of next month. In relation to the Cockburn Cement licence audit, the department has already initiated actions to address the findings of the audit both in the case of the licence and the overall licensing system.
- (3) (a) The department has already commenced an internal review of the implications of the audit findings and is also moving to appoint an independent consultant to review relevant aspects of the licensing system.
- (b) answered by (a).
- (c) answered by (a).
- (d) answered by (a).
- (e) Staff morale is not a component of the review being initiated, but is an issue that departmental management considers in all its dealings.
- (4) Not applicable.