

WAGERUP REFINERY, ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROBLEMS

**546. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment:**

- (1) Has the minister been made aware of the problems with the assessment process uncovered by auditor Frank Fleer in the AWN audit of the Wagerup refinery?
- (2) If so, which of the recommendations made by auditor Frank Fleer will need to be implemented before approval is given for any expansion of the Wagerup refinery?
- (3) What recommendations made by auditor Frank Fleer have been implemented at this time?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

- (1) I am uncertain of the assessment process to which the honourable member is referring. The AWN audit was not related to the Environmental Protection Authority assessment process. As previously indicated in the reply on 24 June 2004, I support the implementation of the recommendations of the independent audit report prepared by AWN for the Wagerup refinery.
- (2) The Department of Environmental Protection advises that all of the recommendations of the AWN audit will need to be addressed, regardless of the Wagerup refinery expansion proposal.
- (3) In June 2004, Alcoa World Alumina Australia provided a progress report on the status of outcomes of the independent audit report, which indicated -
  - (i) All the major audit findings have been addressed, with the exception of recommendation 13.1.5.3, which refers to a sampling program for the residue disposal area and the cooling lake. The proposed sampling program is scheduled to be available in July 2004 and to be implemented prior to December 2004.
  - (ii) All minor findings have been addressed, with the exception of three recommendations, these being -

13.2.3.2	conduct further stability studies on Tedlar bags;
13.2.3.3	compliance with United States Environmental Protection Agency method 18;
13.2.5.8	sampling of the cooling tower.

These recommendations are currently being progressed.
  - (iii) All of the opportunities for improvement have been addressed.