

WASTE TRUCK TYRES, REUSE AS LAWN TOP DRESSING

83. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

In the August 2002, Volume 7 edition of the Cleaner Times, a newsletter from the Motor Trades Association, an article reports that waste truck tyres are ground and used for other purposes -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that one claim of reuse is for top-dressing for lawns?
- (2) Has this use been licensed in Western Australia?
- (3) If yes, what are the tyres that are ground made of?
- (4) What risks of soil or groundwater contamination are there from using this product as lawn top-dressing?
- (5) Will the Minister table any assessments done on the proposal to use ground tyres as lawn top-dressing?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has advised that top-dressing of lawns is one reuse option for used tyres.
- (2) No. This activity does not require a licence. The Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 provide for the CEO to approve tyre disposal other than incineration or burial and set conditions on such disposal methods. However, reuse activities are generally not required to be approved.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The risks of soil or groundwater contamination from tyres is very low. The major environmental risk from tyres arises from the effects of smoke and combustion by-products if tyres are burnt.
- (5) No assessments of the use of tyres for lawn top-dressing have been conducted and none are considered necessary.