

TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PTY LTD FACILITY, KALGOORLIE

955. Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) Will the minister detail the types of liquid wastes and contaminants being deposited into the evaporation ponds at the Total Waste Management Pty Ltd facility in Kalgoorlie?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that the evaporation ponds are unlined and thereby have significant potential to cause ground water and soil contamination?
- (4) Are any fugitive emissions released by waste liquids evaporating in the ponds?
- (5) Has any air monitoring been undertaken to characterise the nature of any fugitive emissions from the Total Waste Management site?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

In view of the long answer, I seek leave to have the answer incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

1. Total Waste Management are licensed to accept bulk liquid wastes and contaminants at the Kalgoorlie facility including:

- Acid/Alkali wastes
- Soluble oils/emulsified/sludges
- Chrome wastes
- Metal finishing wastes
- Contaminated soils
- Biodegradable sludges/slurries
- Cement waters
- Copper Chrome Arsenic wastes
- Sewage and
- Waste oils

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The wastes are treated via the biodegradable aqueous water treatment process, the oily waste separation process and the chemical fixation and solidification plant before waste water is transferred to the evaporation ponds. The separated solid waste is disposed of at a licensed landfill facility.

TWM does provide a schedule of wastes received at the plant to the Department on request.

2. Answered by (1)

3. All evaporation ponds are lined with HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). Furthermore there are 6 monitoring bores around the premise and there are no adverse trends noted in the groundwater quality to date.

4. The Department is not aware of any fugitive emissions emanating from the ponds. Analysis of the quality of the water in the ponds indicates the quality is equivalent to that accepted as 'trade waste' into sewage treatment systems. Therefore the Department would not expect fugitive emissions from the ponds. Previous odour complaints have related to the fixated sludge stockpile and the de-sludging of the ponds.

5. Neither TWM nor the Department have undertaken air quality monitoring. The Department is negotiating with TWM to commence air quality monitoring, to determine if there are any fugitive emissions. This issue will be tabled and discussed with the Kalgoorlie Boulder Community and Industry Reference Group when it is formed.