MIDLAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SITE, PM2.5, MONITORING SAMPLES

1959. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

(1) Is the Minister aware that monitoring samples for PM2.5 at the Midland Redevelopment Authority site have exceeded the safe level in more than 50 per cent of the samples taken?

(2) Can the Minister explain why the DoE advised the proponent to cease further monitoring of PM2.5?

(3) Is the Minister aware that the Woodbridge Primary School is approximately 200m from the earthworks?

(4) Does the Minister consider that adequate ambient air quality protection has been afforded to the surrounding community during the -

(a) dredging;
(b) de-sludging; and
(c) evaporation of the coal dam contamination?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

(1) The PM 2.5 levels were designed as a monitoring and management tool for the site, not to set ‘safe levels’. I have been informed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that the PM 2.5 results that were over the target level were actually measured at a site well within the boundary of the premises. I am further advised that the levels of PM2.5 may have been influenced by a diesel generator situated close to a monitoring station.

(2) I have been informed by the DEP that the proponent was not advised to cease monitoring of PM2.5. The approved dust and air quality management plan for the site specified two weeks of PM2.5 monitoring. Monitoring of PM2.5 levels was done over 27 days.

(3) I have been informed by the DEP that the nearest Woodbridge Primary School building is approximately 225 metres from the Waste Fill area and 110 metres from the Floodplain Sediments on the Helena West area site.

(4) (a-c) Yes. The DEP is currently assessing whether the PM2.5 monitoring should resume or the program modified to better reflect on ambient air monitoring program.