

OMEX SITE, HEALTH IMPACTS

511. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the minister aware of comments in the *Echo* newspaper of 11 November by Department of Environmental Protection spokesperson, Mr Paul McLeod, regarding the Omex site?
- (2) Will the minister explain why Mr McLeod, spokesperson for the DEP, would report to a newspaper that the health of nearby residents was never at risk during the clean-up, yet in the same article report that the DEP had received 40 to 50 complaints, and that people complained of sore throats and eyes?
- (3) What evidence does Mr McLeod and/or the DEP have that Bellevue residents' health impacts disappeared once the smell had gone?
- (4) What medical qualifications does Mr McLeod have to substantiate his comments to the *Echo* newspaper?
- (5) Has the DEP misled the public through these comments made by Mr McLeod?
- (6) What action will the minister take?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Unfortunately, I am not even aware of the question. It may be that it just has not come in. However, I have not seen hide nor hair of it so far. If it comes in, I will let you know, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Should the answer be provided prior to the end of question time, we will certainly link it up.