

SMOKE HAZE AND SMOG

933. Hon Jim Scott to the Attorney General representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the Minister for the Environment aware that the Perth metropolitan area is again experiencing serious levels of smoke haze and smog pollution?
- (2) What are the main causes of this problem?
- (3) Is the minister aware that smoke haze and smog can cause a variety of respiratory disorders and even death in some cases?
- (4) In view of the worsening air pollution problem in Perth, why has the minister failed to prepare and release the Air Quality Management Plan which was promised in response to the Select Committee on Perth's Air Quality report?
- (5) Has funding been allocated in this year's state budget for the implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan?
- (6) If yes, how much?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) There were no days in 1999-2000 when ozone exceeded the NEPM standard of 0.10 parts per million. While there were 179 hours of reduced visibility recorded at six metropolitan sites during 1999-2000, this represents a drop from 265 hours in 1998-99 and 394 hours in 1997-98. There have been no exceedences of the 50 micrograms/cubic metre PM10 NEPM particle level from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) monitoring sites during 1999-2000, a reduction from one recorded in 1998-99 and five in 1997-98.
- (2) The main causes of photochemical smog are motor vehicle and industrial emissions. The main contributors to reduced visibility and increased particle levels, are emissions from domestic wood heating, with a minor component due to natural wildfires, control burning practices and motor vehicle emissions.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Perth Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) is being finalised and will be released shortly.
- (5) DEP has secured a forward funding commitment for implementation of the AQMP for the financial years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.
- (6) A total budget of \$3.545m.