

PROJECTS, POST APPROVAL MONITORING

1231. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Did the Government promise to develop a system of post approval monitoring of major projects to ensure that measures and targets set during the approval process are achieved?
- (2) What has the Government done to honour this election commitment?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

- (1)-(2) The role of the Audit Section of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to ensure that proposals are implemented according to the approvals set under Section 45 (Division 2, Part IV) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. There is a system in place to ensure that all obligations are met and action is taken when and if there are breaches of these conditions.

In addition, the Government has established an Environmental Enforcement Unit in the DEP that is developing and implementing systems and processes for improving auditing and enforcement of projects approved under the Act.

As a result of the Mr Derek Carew-Hopkins review into the structure and function of the department, a more detailed review of the Audit section is being undertaken to determine how the effectiveness of this section can be improved.