

MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS SITE, CONTAMINATED SOILS, MONITORING

590. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Will the Minister please provide details of monitoring and analysis data for the stockpiles of waste soil situated at the eastern end of the Midland Redevelopment (Railway Workshop Site)?
 - (2) If not, why not?
 - (3) Has any soil farming of solvent or hydrocarbon contaminated soils taken place on MRA land associated with the Midland Railway Workshops site?
 - (4) If yes, please detail the air-monitoring program that was undertaken to ensure that levels of fugitive emissions from the soil were within acceptable health guidelines?
 - (5) Does the DEP or EPA endorse the practice of soil farming of contaminated land in Western Australia?
 - (6) If yes, what DEP or EPA policy, regulations or guidelines control this practice?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has provided the following response.

1. The response to this question is the same as that to Question 241 dated 5 November 2002. The data requested was appended to that response.
2. Not applicable.
3. No - to the best of the DEP's knowledge. Soil farming of solvent or hydrocarbon contaminated soils has not taken place on MRA land associated with the Midland Railway Workshop Site.
4. Not applicable.
5. The EPA Guidance Statement for Remediation Hierarchy for Contaminated Land (No 17 July 2000) contains principles to be considered and addressed when determining remediation methods or options for remediation of contaminated land.

Under the first principle, 'Contaminated material shall preferably be either treated on-site and the contaminant reduced to acceptable levels, or be treated off site and returned for reuse after the contaminants have been reduced to acceptable levels.'

The DEP assists the EPA in applying this Guidance Statement under Part IV and in conducting its functions under Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

6. Answered in Question (5).