

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING TARGETS

1234. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Did the Government promise to set an example by requiring Government enterprises and agencies to set targets for waste reduction and recycling?
- (2) Did the Government promise that the performance of its agencies in meeting these targets would be audited annually?
- (3) What has been done to honour this promise?
- (4) Are these audited reports available for the past two years?
- (5) If yes, where?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response:

(1)-(2) Yes.

- (3) The Government released a Draft State Sustainability Strategy in September 2002, where it explored the development of a Sustainability Code of Practice, actioned through a Sustainability Action Plan to be prepared by each agency. It was envisaged at that time, that through the establishment of a Sustainability Action Plan, agencies would be required to put in place programs and resourcing consistent with this commitment and respond to Government wide targets and initiatives including the area of waste reduction and recycling. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is co-ordinating this in conjunction with key agencies. A final State Sustainability Strategy released at the nrg4SD International Sustainability Conference held 17 – 19 September 2003.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has produced its own Eco-Office Program – A guide to achieving environmentally friendly office practices and a reduction in resource consumption in Department of Environment. Key components addressed in this Program include the ecological footprint framework, paper recycling, paper use, energy use and efficiency, waste generation and disposal, purchasing policies, vehicle use and the adoption of the TravelSmart Workplace Program.

The Eco-Office Program sets out to promote a healthy, sustainable working environment and gives commitment to the setting of objectives and targets in areas such as waste reduction and recycling – consistent with local and regional conditions and business planning objectives of the Department.

The Eco-Office Program is currently being piloted in the DEP, with the view of expanding it to the wider public sector for other agencies to adopt, following the initial trial period.

The Department of Treasury and Finance has in place waste and recycling contracts for the public sector which includes the collection of statistics from waste contractors that provide a service to State Government agencies that use the contracts.

- (4) No. However, the recycling of waste paper from across the State Government has been reported on by agencies as part of their annual reporting process for many years and is included as a requirement on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's reporting website.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) The Waste Management Board released a document entitled Strategic Direction for Waste Management in Western Australia on 11 September 2003. It sets initial policy actions for 2003 – 2005 including the requirement that State Government agencies be accountable in their annual reports for their performance in recycling and the use of recycled products. The timeframe set for this is 31 December 2005.

The Strategic Direction for Waste Management in Western Australia is currently out for public comment until 15 December 2003.