

ATLAS WASTE FACILITY, CITY OF STIRLING

82. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Regarding the City of Stirling/Atlas waste facility -

- (1) How do the operators calculate the weight of water applied to the waste in the organics that are weighed and then sent to Calingiri?
- (2) Do the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme payments made to Stirling City Council include the weight of the water applied during the processing?
- (3) Are the organics further sorted at Calingiri to remove extra contaminants?
- (4) If yes, what is the average monthly weight of the contaminants removed at Calingiri?
- (5) What happens to the extra contaminants removed at Calingiri?
- (6) Has the City of Stirling/Atlas waste operation ever been audited?
- (7) If yes, has the Auditor ever found any discrepancies?
- (8) If so, will the Minister table those discrepancies?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The licence conditions require the operator to keep daily records of the weight of water added to the process. This is measured by a water meter attached to the processing plant. The proportion of water in any of the products and by-products of the process is calculated in proportion to the weight in each of these products. An independent audit was conducted by Practical Environmental Solutions to verify this mass balance report. The information is used to track the water added to the material.
- (2) None of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme payments which have so far been made to the City of Stirling relate to the period when the Atlas project was operating. The information in the independent mass balance report will be used to ensure that water added to the material will not be included in the payment for the claims currently being processed.
- (3) The composted material is screened on site to meet product specifications. Oversized materials not meeting specifications are removed and stockpiled for further screening.
- (4) The removed oversized materials have not been weighed. To meet the requirements of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme, tests are being arranged between Atlas and the City of Stirling to calculate the percentage of these materials. The City of Stirling estimates this to be less than 1%.
- (5) The oversized materials at Calingiri remains on site. The City of Stirling advises this material comprises mainly glass and gravel stones. Atlas is investigating alternative uses for this material.
- (6) Yes. The Atlas sorting facility has been independently audited for compliance with licence conditions and to confirm the diversion of waste from landfill.
- (7) Some minor technical breaches were identified, which were rectified in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection enforcement policy.
- (8) These technical breaches related to minor exceedences in the storage times for material held on the premises.