GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, EPA POSITION STATEMENT

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

(1)   Does the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) have a Position Statement or Policy on greenhouse gas emissions from proposed projects?

(2)   If yes, when was it published?

(3)   If not, why not?

(4)   What methodology does the EPA use for assessing greenhouse gas emissions from proposed developments?

(5)   Will this approach be applied to the desalination plant which the Water Corporation is proposing for Kwinana?

(6)   Which agency is responsible for maintaining Western Australia's inventory of greenhouse gas emissions?

(7)   Is this inventory available to the public?

(8)   If yes, where?

(9)   If not, why not?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

(1)   The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has an interim guidance statement 'Minimising Greenhouse Emissions' that provides proponents and the public with information on EPA environmental impact assessment requirements.

(2)   June 1998.   Since then considerable development and consultation have occurred with a view to publishing a revised guidance statement.

(3)   N/A.

(4)   The EPA follows the methodology of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Committee.

(5)   This is a matter for the EPA.

(6)   The Australian Greenhouse Office maintains a National greenhouse gas inventory and State greenhouse gas inventories.

(7)   Yes.   Although the latest National inventory is based on 1999 data the WA inventory uses 1995 data.   I understand that from next year the National data will be presented in a way that allows State data to be extracted.

(8)   Hardcopies of the 1999 inventory and its associated documents are available free of charge from Australian Greenhouse Office Publications, 1300 130 606.   Alternatively the information can be downloaded from website: www.greenhouse.gov.au

(9)   N/A