

WASTE CONTROL PTY LTD, DIOXIN CONTAMINATION

Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) Is the minister aware that levels of dioxin of 51.2 picograms/gram toxic equivalent quantity were found on lot 2, next to the Waste Control Pty Ltd site, and that, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 50 picograms/gram TEQ require further investigation?
- (2) If so, will the minister explain why further investigations were not conducted when this information was received in July last year?
- (3) Given this lack of action on dioxin investigations, will the minister explain why the Department of Environmental Protection continues to advise the surrounding community that it is not at risk from contamination at the Waste Control fire site?
- (4) Has the Waste Control fire site been sealed, particularly lot 2 where the dioxin has been identified?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

- (1) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has been advised by the Department of Environmental Protection that its commissioned report into dioxins on the Waste Control site and lot 2 includes a result of 51.2 picograms/gram in one soil sample on lot 2 adjacent to the Waste Control site. Advice received by the Department of Environmental Protection from the Department of Health indicated that although this is above health investigation levels for soil, the Department of Health considered that it did not pose a health risk to the immediate land use.
- (2) The Department of Health advised the DEP that there was no health risk; however, due to community concerns, further investigations by the DEP, as part of phase 2, are planned to include dioxins. These investigations should commence within the next three months.
- (3) The Department of Health advised the DEP that there is no health risk to the surrounding community from contamination at the Waste Control fire site.
- (4) Lot 2 has been hydromulched. Prior to this, an automated reticulation system was operated on the site to suppress any dust.