

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AIR QUALITY BRANCH, SENIOR STAFF  
RESIGNATIONS

212. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Have there been resignations of senior staff in the Department of Environmental Protection's Air Quality Branch recently?
  - (2) How many staff and what financial resources are now allocated to the implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan?
  - (3) How many times has the Air Quality Management Plan Steering Committee met this year?
  - (4) When did the meetings take place?
  - (5) What is the membership of the Environmental Health Foundation, and what organisations do they represent, which the Minister announced several months ago?
  - (6) Has this Foundation met yet?
  - (7) If yes, when?
  - (8) If not, why not?
  - (9) What are the terms of reference of the Environmental Health Foundation?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes, the Manager of the Air Quality Management Branch resigned from the Department on 4 October 2002 to take up a position in academia.
- (2) The equivalent of eight Full Time Employees (FTE) is allocated to the Air Quality Management Plan (AQP). Additional staff input will be provided as required. Total expenditure for the implementation of the Perth AQMP (by Department of Environmental Protection) will be approximately \$1.2 million in the 2002/03 financial year. This consists of salaries, capital and operational expenditure. This also includes] monitoring, provision of advice to departments and the community, development of a community education strategy, assessment of industrial emissions and assessment of vehicle emission reduction measures.
- (3) There has been one meeting of the Steering Committee. A second meeting is scheduled for November 2002.
- (4) The Steering Committee met on 19 April 2002 to finalise the Implementation Strategy for the Perth AQMP.
- (5) The membership of the Foundation has not yet been established. Representatives for the Ministerial Council on Health, Environment and Industry Sustainability are currently discussing the concept and establishment options with academic institutions.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) The formation of the Foundation from concept to implementation is a complex task and requires time to ensure it is done properly.
- (9) The proposed Terms of Reference are:

Scope:

Advise and make recommendations to the Ministerial Council on the impact, or potential impact, of point source emissions and chemicals on the health of the community, including workers.

Functions:

To assess, report and provide independent expert advice to assist in the regulatory and consultative functions of Government departments including the following.

Provide independent, expert advice to Government on new facilities or proposals, where the potential to adversely impact on the health of the community has been established and make recommendations to address these impacts.

Evaluate existing hazardous facilities where emissions have the potential to cause undesirable health impacts, and makes recommendations to Government departments.

Review the levels of contamination of existing sites, identified as having the potential to cause health impacts.  
Review technical and related information for Government departments as a result of direct referrals, eg risk assessments.