

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT, IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

519. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Has the Minister dissolved the Environment Action Council which was established to oversee the implementation of the actions recommended in the State of the Environment Report?
 - (2) What mechanism has she put in its place to ensure that these actions are implemented?
 - (3) Which of these actions have been implemented to date?
 - (4) Will the Minister supply me with an audit table showing the action taken on each of these 180 action items from the State of the Environment Report?
 - (5) Does the Minister intend to honour the previous Government's promise to implement the 180 actions arising from the State of the Environment Report?
 - (6) If not, why not?
 - (7) If yes, what process has she put in place to do this?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) I have been advised by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage that the Environment Action Council was created by the former Minister just prior to the last election. The Council was not funded and never met. After reviewing the situation, the Council was dissolved by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.
- (2) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has asked the Environmental Protection Authority to consider undertaking the role of managing the next State of Environment reporting cycle, which would include a review of actions under the 1998 SoE Report.
- (3) No review or audit of actions has been undertaken to date.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) The previous Government responded to the 1998 State of Environment Report through the release of Environmental Action in December 1999, in which agreed and funded actions arising from the SoE Report were documented. It is anticipated that all Government agencies would have continued to implement their agreed and funded programs. The effectiveness of these actions is one area the EPA will review as part of the next round of SoE reporting.
- (6) Answered by (5).
- (7) Answered by (2).