

BRICKWORKS INDUSTRY, MONITORING OF STACK EMISSIONS

15. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) What is the status of the DEP review of the Brickwork Industry in Western Australia? Please detail.
 - (2) Is it true that the Western Australian Brickwork Industry have devised their own monitoring method, the U-tube method, to measure stack emissions from their plants?
 - (3) Is it true that Western Australia is the only State in Australia to allow Brickworks to use this method?
 - (4) Is it true that the U-tube method can underestimate brickwork stack emissions by up to 50 per cent?
 - (5) Given the degree of discrepancy in Western Australian Brickwork monitoring, can the Minister ensure that stack emissions from the Brickwork Industry are at acceptable levels for the protection of the environment and public health?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The review has recently commenced. An interim report was prepared by the DEP in September 2000 and the review is actioning the recommendations of this report. A final report is expected around the end of the year.
- (2) No. The U-tube method was developed by the DEP for measuring ambient hydrogen fluoride and is an Australian Standard method (AS3580.13.3).
- (3) No. The Victorian EPA recognises this method.
- (4) No. The U-tube method measures ambient hydrogen fluoride not stack emissions. However, it is acknowledged different sampling methodologies may create variation in hydrogen-fluoride assessments.
- (5) The DEP has received complaints about brickwork emissions at various times. All investigations to date have shown emissions are below relevant health guidelines. However, the DEP takes such complaints seriously and continues to investigate the potential impact of brickwork emissions on the locality and evaluate any new information that comes to light. The DEP has recently allocated additional specialist resources to a review of brickwork emissions, including stakeholder consultation.