

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, PURCHASE OF RECYCLED PRODUCTS

1221. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) What has the Government done to implement its election promise to 'encourage all Government agencies to buy recycled products'?
- (2) Will the Minister provide data to demonstrate the results she has achieved as a result of this initiative?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for the Environment provided the following response:

- (1) An Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainability Procurement in Government was established in mid 2002. The Committee is chaired by the State Supply Commission and comprises of senior managers/directors from eleven public authorities. The Department of Environment is represented on this Committee, which held its first meeting in November 2002.

The terms of reference for the Committee is:

- to identify appropriate tools and mechanisms to support sustainable procurement and disposal within existing Government supply policies and guidelines;
- to develop a comprehensive strategy to review Government supply policies and guidelines in support of sustainability;
- to prepare a comprehensive approach to sustainability procurement in government, including the development of a policy and guidelines; and
- to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy in conjunction with Government and industry stakeholders.

In developing an approach to sustainable procurement, the Committee is considering ways in which procurement can positively contribute towards economic, social and environmental sustainability. The Committee is considering strategies and approaches that target both macro (strategic) and micro (operational) levels of procurement within government agencies.

Since the Minister for Housing and Works is in the best position to provide a status on the work of this Committee to date I encourage the Honourable Member to address the question to him.

The Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee (incorporating the NEPC Committee) established a Greening of Government working group in mid 2003 to share information on greening of Government actions across Australia. It is felt that the sharing of greening of Government operations initiatives between jurisdictions will reduce duplication of effort on such activities as energy efficiency, environmental management systems, environmental purchasing, water conservation and environmental reporting. Jurisdictions will have increased access to good practice examples when developing new initiatives to improve the environmental performance of their Government's operations.

- (2) No. This question should be referred to the Minister for Housing and Works, as Minister responsible for the State Supply Commission.