

ACID SULFATE SOILS, COMPANIES ACCREDITED TO TEST

292. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) What companies in Western Australia are accredited to test acid sulfate soils?
- (2) What procedures are in place to ensure that developers and mining companies use accredited organisations for the testing of acid sulfate soils?
- (3) What measures are in place to ensure that the sampling carried out by companies is according to ASSMAC guidelines?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

1. To the best of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) knowledge, the only WA laboratory that is able to conduct Acid Sulfate Soil (ASS) tests is the Chemistry Centre of WA (CCWA). The CCWA is in the process of gaining NATA accreditation. Most soil samples collected from WA for ASS testing are sent to the Natural Resource Sciences Laboratory in Queensland.
2. In WA, the DEP has adopted the testing procedures developed by the Queensland ASS Investigation Team (QASSIT), Department of Natural Resources, Indooroopilly, Queensland.
3. The DEP has developed a number of draft guidelines on the identification and testing of ASS. These guidelines are based upon and adopt the principles of the Queensland and NSW (ASSMAC) guidelines for sampling and analysis of lowland ASS. The DEP's guidelines are available on the DEP website.