

STATE GOVERNMENT GAS HEATER REBATE - AVAILABILITY TO GOLDFIELDS RESIDENTS

4965. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to a newspaper article which appeared in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, dated Monday 18 June 2007, titled 'Gas heater rebate feel good politics', and I ask -

- (1) In light of climate change focussing on the whole of Western Australia, will the Minister urgently implement a Government policy so that the \$500 rebate to convert from a wood fired heater to gas is made available to all Goldfields residents and people outside of the metropolitan area?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The current wood heater replacement program is funded under the Perth Air Quality Management Plan. Both the Plan and the wood heater replacement program at present focus on the community, amenity and health impact of smoke from domestic sources in the Perth metropolitan area.

However, future programs could be extended outside of the area covered by the Perth Air Quality Management Plan to include the Goldfields. A number of air quality management plans are currently being developed for regional areas, including Kalgoorlie. Where wood heaters are identified to be a significant contributor to air pollution, regional programs similar to those conducted for Perth will be considered.