

GLASS RECYCLING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

4731. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Is the Minister aware that glass is no longer recycled in Western Australia, but has to be transported to South Australia, with the price per tonne in hand to local Western Australian recyclers falling from approximately \$90 to approximately \$20 because of the transport cost?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that this has caused various Shires (e.g. Bridgetown and Kojonup) to cease all glass recycling?
- (3) Does the Minister know which Shires have discontinued the collection of glass for recycling?
- (4) Did the Minister keep records of the amount of glass that was recycled in Western Australia prior to the closure of the local glass recycling facility?
- (5) If yes to (4), what was the quantity recycled then?
- (6) If no to (4), how can the Minister be confident that we are making progress towards the target of zero landfill by 2020?
- (7) How much glass is now transported to South Australia for recycling?
- (8) What action is being undertaken by the Government to encourage recycling of glass in Western Australia again?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Records on glass collected by local government from households for recycling were kept prior to the closure of the ACI glass processing plant. Records were not kept for glass collection by private sector recyclers.
- (5) The Department of Environment and Conservation estimates that on average, local government recycled approximately 13,000 tonnes of glass per year.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Approximately 18,000 tonnes in total are collected and sent to Adelaide for recycling, of which about 15,000 tonnes are contributed through local government recycling programs.
- (8) The Government is taking the following actions:
 - The Waste Management Board is currently considering a number of applications for funding of projects for recycling glass in Western Australia;
 - A recycled glass market development report was recently completed and published for comment;
 - A strategy to promote glass recycling in Western Australia is currently being developed; and
 - The Government is investigating the introduction of a container deposit system in Western Australia.