

LOONGANA LIME - EMISSIONS

5728. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the Nationwide Oil, Loongana Lime operations, dust issues and the possibility that the waste oil burning kilns which have a extensive history of impacting with unreasonable emissions on the health, welfare, amenity, convenience and comfort of residents living in the surrounding area -

- (1) In the event that a licence is reissued for the premises will the Minister ensure that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) imposes a licence condition, as imposed by Dr Judy Edwards MLA in August 2004, that restricts the burning of waste oil when the wind is blowing from the north, north-east or east, so that residents living in the surrounding area do not continue to suffer from unreasonable emissions?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Can the Minister state what the DEC has done by way of regulatory enforcement at the Loongana Lime operations to ensure that lime dust and other dust emissions, from stockpiles and various equipment, do not cause pollution and create problems for the future?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Have residents expressed serious concerns to the DEC that, should the waste oil kilns be recommissioned at the Parkeston premises, the problems of unreasonable odours and dust will be ongoing?
- (6) If yes to (5), what has the DEC done to ensure the protection of residents from unreasonable odour emissions and to prevent dust from the premises creating problems?
- (7) Is it correct that an Environmental Field Notice was issued to Nationwide Oil at the Loongana Lime premises for a breach of section 49 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* on the 29 January 2007?
- (8) If yes to (7), can the Minister quote the full text of the reasons given and what the company was required to do as stated in the Environmental Field Notice?
- (9) Can the Minister state how many environmental field notices have been issued to Loongana Lime, Nationwide Oil in the last 24 months, and the specific reasons why they were issued?
- (10) If no to (9), why not?
- (11) Will the Minister table copies of all the Environmental Field Notices issued to Loongana Lime, Nationwide Oil in the last 24 months?
- (12) If no to (11) why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The condition was removed from the licence in 2005. Curtin University conducted an air modelling study for the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and, based on advice resulting from the study that the kilns had improved operation since July 2004, DEC removed this condition.

A new condition imposed restrictions on operations such as fuel type and quality, and the start-up procedure for the kiln when the wind was blowing towards the town.

DEC has advised that this new condition will be imposed if, and when, a licence is issued to Cockburn Cement to operate the premises.
- (3) Loongana Lime ceased operating the kilns in June 2006, then it sold the Parkeston premises to Adelaide Brighton in August 2006, and the kilns have not been in operation since that time.

In a new licence, dust management will be regulated at the site via licence conditions or through the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) DEC advertised the application for a new licence for the facility on 10 September 2007 for public comment. Three submissions were received by DEC. These concerns related to odour and the health effects on the Ninga Mia Community, which is situated close to the premises.

- (6) A new licence has not yet been issued. However, odour and dust will be managed through both licence conditions and other provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
 - (7) Yes.
 - (8) The Environmental Field Notice was issued to require Nationwide Oil to "Take steps as soon as possible to reduce the odours being produced by the boiler at Nationwide Oil. There is an offensive odour crossing the boundary of the premise and was detected across railway line on Yarri Road and in Williamstown".
 - (9) Four Environmental Field Notices were issued to Loongana Lime during this period. Three of these were for odour and one was for any emissions which may result in a breach of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
One Environmental Field Notice was issued to Nationwide Oil.
 - (10) Not applicable.
 - (11) Yes. I seek leave to table the Environmental Field Notices issued to Loongana Lime and Nationwide Oil. [See paper 3735.]
 - (12) Not applicable.
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