

WASTE OIL COLLECTION AND TREATMENT

4717. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
- (1) Is the Minister aware of recent media reports (*Waste oil crisis as recycling stalls - The West Australian, 21 February 2007*) about a crisis in waste oil collection and treatment in Western Australia?
 - (2) Has the Minister's Department briefed the Minister on the lack of storage and treatment capacity for waste oil in Western Australia?
 - (3) If yes to (2), can the Minister please table all Ministerial briefing notes from the Department in relation to this matter since 2003?
 - (4) Is the Minister aware that the Core Consultative Committee on Waste had finalised a recommendation for government to categorise waste oil as hazardous waste and have it treated in designated precincts to standards which would allow for its beneficial reuse?
 - (5) If yes to (4), why has this plan not been implemented?
 - (6) If no to (4), why has the Minister not been made aware?
 - (7) Is the Minister aware that waste oil treatment companies Total Waste Management (and related entities) and Wren Oil (and related entities) engaged the services of Mr Brian Burke and Mr Julian Grill, or Mr Peter Clough to lobby government to oppose the recommendations of the Core Consultative Committee on Waste regarding waste oil and other waste treatment matters?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

1. Yes. This is a complex issue that is largely market related, and long-term solutions will take time to implement.
2. Yes. Low-cost burner fuel has been the traditional local market for this material. This market is in decline as businesses are turning to natural gas which has lower emissions. The Department of Environment and Conservation is engaged with the oil recycling industry, major oil producers, the Australian Institute of Petroleum and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources to identify both immediate and long-term solutions.
3. The Department's briefing notes of 12 April, 14 March and 12 February 2007 are tabled for the Hon Member's information.
[See paper 2749.]
4. I am aware that the Core Consultative Committee on Waste (3C) has finalised its recommendations to Government and that the report was tabled in Parliament and made available to the public.
5. The Minister has requested coordinated advice from the relevant Departments before Government considers the 3C's recommendations. This is taking longer than initially anticipated due to the complexity of the issues addressed in the 3C's advice.
6. Not applicable.
7. The Minister has been advised that Departmental officers have met with Mr Clough and Mr Grill in regards to the 3C process. The Department has advised the Minister that no meetings have taken place with Mr Burke in regards to this issue.