

DUMPING OF ASBESTOS — SOUTH WEST REGION

Hon PAUL LLEWELLYN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the dumping of asbestos in the south west region.

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation received any complaints about the dumping of asbestos in the Shire of Bridgetown?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) when did the department receive such complaints;
 - (b) what investigations has the department undertaken in relation to those complaints;
 - (c) what are the results of those investigations; and,
 - (d) have any investigations resulted in prosecution?
- (3) Does the Department of Environment and Conservation hold a register of complaints regarding the dumping of asbestos?
- (4) If yes to (3), what sites in the south west region have been registered?
- (5) If no to (3), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The Minister for the Environment has provided an answer in the following terms —

- (1) Yes. The Department of Environment and Conservation has received complaints about both the handling and disposal of asbestos.
- (2)
 - (a) The Department of Environment and Conservation received three complaints—on 3 July 2004, 5 February 2008 and 12 February 2008.
 - (b) The Department of Environment and Conservation referred the complaints of 3 July 2004 and 5 February 2008 to the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to investigate under the provisions of the Health Act 1911. The complaint lodged on 12 February 2008 is being investigated by the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Department of Environment and Conservation has requested that the shire confirm receipt of the asbestos material and disposal at its landfill site in accordance with the conditions of the shire's landfill licence.
 - (c) The Department of Environment and Conservation investigation is ongoing.
 - (d) Not applicable.
- (3) No. DEC does not hold a specific register of complaints regarding the dumping of asbestos.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) DEC maintains a general register of all complaints received by the department.