

WASTE DISPOSAL - COMPOSTING

5543. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a major component of the domestic waste stream is organics and that composting is an important strategy to reduce waste?
- (2) How many resources recovery plants in Perth produce waste derived from compost?
- (3) How many of these plants are incorporating biosolids into the compost product and how much?
- (4) What is the total tonnage of waste-derived compost produced now, broken down by plant?
- (5) How many more plants are planned and where?
- (6) How and where is the waste-derived product used?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister believes that the Hon Paul Llewellyn meant to ask 'How many resources recovery plants in Perth produce compost derived from waste?' if this is the case then the answer would be two - one plant operated by Southern Metropolitan Regional Council and the other by the Atlas Group.
- (3) One - the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council. Approximately three tonnes of biosolids per week from Rottnest Island, though the quantity fluctuates seasonally.
- (4) The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council produces approximately 25,000 tonnes per year. There are no tonnage figures available for the Atlas Group facility, however approximately 50,000 cubic metres are produced per year.
- (5) Two - in the Mindarie Regional Council and Western Metropolitan Regional Council areas.
- (6) Compost produced at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council facility is used for sub-soil application for turf production at Gingin, and as absorbent material for decontaminating soils removed from hydrocarbon-contaminated sites in the Kwinana industrial area.  
  
Compost produced at the Atlas Group facility is used solely at a farm at Calingiri, predominantly for broadacre application.