

HANSON CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT — DUST EMISSIONS

304. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to community concerns about dust emissions from the Hanson concrete batching plant at 71 Edward Street, Perth.

- (1) Is the minister aware of complaints about dust emissions from the plant?
- (2) If so, how many complaints have been received?
- (3) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation investigated these complaints; and, if so, what action has DEC taken to address these complaints?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Environment has provided me with the following advice —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Since July 2006, the Department of Environment and Conservation has received 41 complaints.
- (3) Yes. DEC has investigated the complaints it has received to validate dust allegations, generally by conducting site visits. Following inspections, a number of infringement notices have been issued to Hanson where there has been a breach under the Environmental Protection (Concrete Batching and Cement Product Manufacturing) Regulations 1998. DEC is currently investigating the most recent dust complaint, which was reported on 30 March 2011. If a breach of the act or regulations is confirmed, DEC will take action in accordance with its enforcement and prosecutions policy 2008. DEC met with representatives of Hanson on 22 March 2011 to discuss dust management. DEC subsequently wrote to Hanson and requested that it provide a copy of its environmental management plan. DEC is reviewing the plan to determine whether further dust management improvements can be achieved.