

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT POLICY

1203. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 1098 on 14 October 2014.

- (1) Does the government believe that a nine-week delay from report to removal of hazardous broken asbestos sheeting is acceptable?
- (2) Did the Department of Housing notify the Department of Education that broken asbestos sheeting from the dividing fence of East Maddington Primary School and an adjoining property was left uncovered for a period of nine weeks from August 2014 to October 2014?
- (3) If yes to (2), when was that notification made? If no to (2), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Housing, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) In cases where dividing fences are being negotiated between parties it is not unusual for it to take some weeks before an agreement or resolution occurs. In this instance, the department experienced difficulties securing the services of an available fencing contractor. The department initiated action to resolve the complaint on 27 August 2014. However, it was unable to secure the services of a fencing contractor until 30 September 2014. The department contacted three contractors prior to the fourth contractor completing the work. On 2 October 2014, a contractor repaired the damaged fence and removed the broken asbestos from the property. A sheet of asbestos concealed by overgrown grass was inadvertently not taken away for disposal. On 9 October 2014, the sheet of asbestos was removed.