

SCHOOLS — ASBESTOS

845. Hon KATE DOUST to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer the minister to an article in the current *Fremantle Herald* entitled “Asbestos confirmed in school waste pile”.

- (1) When was the minister made aware of the asbestos-contaminated soil just outside John Curtin College of the Arts?
- (2) What action has initially been taken to ensure that no further persons will be affected by this health threat?
- (3) Is there any estimate as to how many people may have been affected by this health risk?
- (4) How is the asbestos to be removed from the site so it no longer poses any risk to students, teachers or the general public?
- (5) What strategies has the minister put in place to ensure that situations like this one no longer arise?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) A complaint has not been made to WorkSafe. However, I understand that a number of other government agencies have been involved in the management of the contaminated soil.
- (2) I have been advised that environmental consultants have been engaged to develop a management plan for the contaminated soil. This has involved removing the soil in stages over consecutive weekends and has included carrying out air monitoring around the area during the removal work.
- (3) No.
- (4) Please refer to the answer to (2) above.
- (5) WorkSafe maintains a focus on asbestos at the workplace as outlined in its 2013–14 business plan. However, situations such as these can sometimes be outside WorkSafe’s jurisdiction and require a whole-of-community approach.

FRUIT GROWERS — FENTHION PESTICIDE

846. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) Does the minister support the federal government’s decision to ban the use of the insecticide fenthion in WA?
- (2) If no to (1), what action has the minister taken to change the federal government’s position?
- (3) Does the minister believe that stone fruit growers in the Perth Hills can survive without a cover spray?
- (4) What action is the minister taking to assist industry in dealing with the impacts of this decision and, in particular, in areas like Roleystone and Karragullen where there is high residential fruit fly pressure?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is an independent national body that registers and reviews the registration of agricultural and veterinary chemicals. APVMA decisions are based on scientific evidence and it is the responsible decision-making body.
- (2) I am seeking advice on what options might be available to review APVMA’s decision, noting that it is likely to require the agreement of all jurisdictions.
- (3) Yes, if area-wide management tools are adopted.
- (4) Fruit fly control areas within the local government districts of the Shires of Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda, Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine–Jarrahdale have been gazetted. Property owners are obliged to control medfly. The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia is working with Fruitwest to enforce the control of medfly in the gazetted areas. DAFWA is assisting industry to develop whole-of-orchard and an area-wide control and coordination strategy for medfly using baiting, trapping, orchard hygiene and permitted sprays. DAFWA is involved with research projects, including sustainable control of fruit fly without cover sprays and the use of sterile insect technique.

Extract from *Hansard*

[COUNCIL — Tuesday, 26 November 2013]

p6516b-6517a

Hon Kate Doust; Hon Michael Mischin; Hon Ken Travers; Hon Ken Baston
