

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING — ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT POLICY

1098. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the minister representing the Minister for Housing:

I refer to a phone call received by my office from a resident of Maddington alleging that the Department of Housing was slow to act upon a request to repair the asbestos fence separating her property from East Maddington Primary School that had been severely damaged by a falling branch.

- (1) When was the complaint about the fence first received by the Department of Housing?
- (2) Was the complaint acted upon immediately; and, if not, why not?
- (3) When was the broken asbestos removed from the property and repairs carried out?
- (4) In the case of exposed or damaged asbestos, how does the department prioritise such maintenance requests?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Housing advises —

- (1) The Department of Housing received a maintenance request on 11 August 2014 to repair damaged panels of an asbestos fence at 9 Clovertree Street, Maddington.
- (2) No. 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The department uses an asbestos risk assessment matrix to prioritise maintenance requests.