

PFAS CONTAMINATION — ALCOA — SOUTH32

293. Hon Dr BRAD PETTITT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to reports that Alcoa piped PFAS or “forever chemicals” across a drinking water dam without approval.

- (1) What other Alcoa and/or South32 operations have PFAS to manage, and can the minister please list them?
- (2) What other approvals have been sought by Alcoa and/or South32 to manage PFAS?
- (3) What has the minister done to ensure that Alcoa and South32 are lawfully and safely managing PFAS at all sites operated by the companies and that there are no additional instances of noncompliance to address?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1) Known or suspected environmental contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl—Madam President, those are very big words—the substances known as PFAS, is being regulated under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 at Alcoa’s McCoy and Myara mine sites, former fire training and tank areas in the north-west portion of the Wagerup refinery, and the tank farm at Lot 99 Cockburn Road, Naval Base, north east of the Kwinana refinery. These sites are in addition to the Arundel and Orion mine sites that are the subject of current works approval applications. No environmental contamination by PFAS has been reported under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 at South32’s Worsley Alumina operations.
- (2) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is assessing an application for works approval for the Alcoa of Australia Ltd Willowdale mine site in relation to PFAS-impacted water within the Orion and Arundel mining areas. There are no other applications or approvals under part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for Alcoa or South32 operations that relate to PFAS.
- (3) Where known or suspected environmental contamination by PFAS has occurred, the requirements of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 apply. The department regulates sites reported under the CS act with reference to the *PFAS national environmental management plan*.

The PRESIDENT: Member, that answer was very long. I noticed that your microphone cut out halfway through. I can understand why that might be the case. Perhaps you might have a word. It is not the first time. I know that the questions require a lot of detail, but if you would please have some consideration.