

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Question on notice

Thursday, 12 March 2015

2857. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

I refer to the environmental conditions on or around Barrow Island, and ask:

- (a) how is pollution monitored and reported;
- (b) is there, or has there ever been, any pollution on or around the island;
- (c) if yes to (b), please provide information on the type, how it was caused and mitigated, and the environmental impact;
- (d) how is contamination monitored and reported;
- (e) is there, or has there ever been, any contamination on or around the island;
- (f) if yes to (e), please provide information on the type of contamination, how it was caused and mitigated, and the environmental impact;
- (g) how is groundwater monitored and reported;
- (h) is the groundwater monitoring comprehensive;
- (i) if yes to (h), how is this known;
- (j) if no to (h), why not; and
- (k) what are the key concerns for the department and agencies for ensuring the environmental conditions on the island are maintained?

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Answer

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) Incidents resulting in pollution are monitored by, and reported to, the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) in accordance with the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012*, and to the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- (b) Yes, there have been localised pollution incidents on Barrow Island.

- (c) The nature and extent of pollution resulting in contamination of soil or groundwater on Barrow Island is made publicly available on the DER website in accordance with the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.
- (d) Incidents resulting in possible or actual contamination are monitored by, and reported to, DMP in accordance with the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources (Environment) Regulations 2012*, and to DER in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.
- (e) Yes, Barrow Island is classified as 'contaminated – remediation required' under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.
- (f) The nature and extent of contamination on Barrow Island that has been reported to DER is made publicly available on the DER website in accordance with the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.
- (g) Groundwater is monitored and reported in accordance with *Environmental Protection Act 1986* licences and Ministerial Statements, and in accordance with the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.
- (h) DER is the agency that monitors compliance with *Environmental Protection Act 1986* Part V licences and the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*. The Office of the Environmental Protection Authority monitors compliance with the conditions of Ministerial Statements published under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- (i) Not applicable. Please see response to (h).
- (j) Not applicable. Please see response to (h).
- (k) The key concern for DMP is to ensure that ongoing environmental audits and environmental monitoring programs on Barrow Island are monitored against environmental and approvals conditions, and legislative requirements.

