

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C017

**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)**

Tuesday, 16 May 2017

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to a photograph (<http://www.robinchapple.com/sites/default/files/2017-04-29%20Fume.JPG>) of a fume incident at the Yara TAN Plant on the Burrup Peninsula on 29 April at 21:48 and reported on the ABC North West's morning bulletin and ask:

1. Was this event reported to the EPA or Department of Environment Regulation and if so on what date and time?
2. Did the department attend site?
3. What caused the fume event and is there an investigation?
4. What was the purpose of Yara staff attending the adjacent Hearson's Cove public beach immediately after the event?
5. Was this nitrogen dioxide fume event a Level 1 Pantone 155C, Level 2 Pantone 157C or higher release?
6. Were staff removed from site, for how long and if not why not?

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Department of Environment Regulation:

- (1) Yes, email notification was received by the Department of Environment Regulation at 11.31am on 1 May 2017.
- (2) No.
- (3) The event occurred during start-up of the technical ammonium nitrate plant. The Department of Environment Regulation is currently investigating the incident.
- (4) Yara has not provided information to confirm staff movements such as this.
- (5) The Department of Environment Regulation is currently investigating the incident.
- (6) The Department of Environment Regulation has been advised that staff were not evacuated from site..

