

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 2 April 2019

C273. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health

I refer to Question Without Notice CI28 asked in the Legislative Council by Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Health, on 21 February 2019, and ask:

Given the Minister's answer that "Most of the radioactive isotopes that will be considered for approval at the site will have half-lives that will ensure that the material is not radioactive after 300 years", how can this statement be justified given the half-lives of the elements listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 in Tellus' Radiation Waste Management Plan, some of which are in order of billions of years?

Answer

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of the question.

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 reference a broad list of isotopes used in medicine and industry. Not all isotopes listed will be deemed to be suitable, should approval be granted, for burial at a near surface low level radioactive waste facility. The half-life of an isotope is one of the important considerations in assessing the suitability of the waste for disposal at the Sandy Ridge facility.

