

Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for the Environment

Question No: 4699
Question Date: 29/03/2007
Answer Date: 09/05/2007
Parliament: 37
Question Type: Question On Notice
Session Number: 1
Asked By: Hon Paul Llewellyn

Question & Answer:

(1) Has the distribution rain acidity (precipitation pH) across Western Australia ever been mapped?

(2) If yes to (1) -

(a) when; and

(b) will the minister table the results of those mappings?

(3) If no to (1) -

(a) why not; and

(b) when will the Government undertake the mapping?

(4) If no to (2b), why not?

(5) What is the current annual level of CO₂ emissions from the Dampier industries?

(6) Some countries, such as Sweden, have a nitrogen oxide levy. Why is this not applied in Western Australia?

(1) Not to my knowledge or that of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) (a) The phenomenon of acid forming rainfall is considered low risk in Western Australia given the level of acid forming gaseous emissions and rainfall patterns.

(b) There are no current plans to undertake this work. The current air quality management priorities include monitoring and modelling air sheds that are potentially impacted by urban and industrial emissions.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) The level is not known, as CO₂ is not reportable to the National Pollutant Inventory. However, the Government is developing a mandatory reporting system for CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from significant emitters in Western Australia, which will in the future provide these data.

(6) The load based fee structure for licensing in Western Australia includes nitrogen oxide as an emission for which discharge fees are charged to the licensed premises which emit this material.