

WAGERUP ALUMINA REFINERY — EXPANSION

**1355. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to an advertisement on page five of the *Harvey–Waroona Reporter* on Tuesday, 17 November titled, “Wagerup Unit Three — licence extension”.

- (1) How many times can the approval of expansion of the Wagerup alumina refinery be extended?
- (2) When was the environmental review and management program—ERMP—for Alcoa’s Wagerup alumina refinery implemented?
- (3) When was the ERMP last reviewed?
- (4) Will a new ERMP be needed?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) A change to conditions to extend the time limit of authorisation of a ministerial statement can be requested at any time under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Alcoa recently requested a change to the conditions of the ministerial statement for the Wagerup alumina refinery production to a maximum capacity of 4.7 million tonnes per annum, and for associated bauxite mining to extend the time limit of authorisation for a further five years.
- (2) The environmental review and management program prepared by Alcoa in 2005 was assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority. The outcomes of the assessment were reported in EPA Bulletin 1215 in January 2006 and the Minister for Environment subsequently approved Ministerial Statement 728 in September 2006.
- (3) Alcoa has not been required to produce a new ERMP, but has been required to provide additional information on environmental matters in seeking to have the approval extended.
- (4) See answer to (3).
- (5) Not applicable