



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Wednesday 13 November 2019

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA:

In relation to: Details of rectification works in relation to Oaks Estate infringement

MS LEE: Just sticking to table 9, the environment protection orders you have got, the polluting the environment offence at Oaks Estate. Can you confirm what was the nature of that offence?

Mrs Sargent: The environment protection order?

MS LEE: Yes.

Mrs Sargent: You might remember, that was—that was the big fire in Oaks Estate on, if you like, a recycling ...(indistinct)... [10.23.33] manufacturing, so that was whereby—it was late in the evening and it was the big fire, so to speak.

MS LEE: The fire, yes. Yes.

Mrs Sargent: So we put an environment protection order on them because there were some things in terms of looking at the management, if you like, of liquid waste, of some of the products that were in the vehicles and also making sure there was appropriate sediment and erosion control structures in place, because they were close to a receiving waters. So we put orders on them to make sure that they had better practices on the site so that it did not happen in future and they have actually undertaken all those rectification works.

MS LEE: Okay. And so in terms of the works that were required to be undertaken, that has happened?

Mrs Sargent: Yes, that has happened.

MS LEE: Okay. And—

Mrs Sargent: So all conditions of the order were complied with and now the order has been removed in September.

MS LEE: In September, okay. And have you got any more details on the specific rectification works that they were required to undertake?

Mrs Sargent: We can give you what the specific works were. I think there was about ten conditions and some were quicker for them to do and some not as quick to do.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 6

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

On Tuesday 21 August 2018, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued an Environment Protection Order under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* on GRI Pty Ltd for:

"Polluting the environment causing material environmental harm through the discharge of water from the GRI Pty Ltd site to the Molonglo River containing Aluminium, Lead, Molybdenum and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons above the ambient environmental standards for the Molonglo River Catchment prescribed in Schedule 4 of the Environment Protection Regulation 2005."

GRI Pty Ltd undertakes metal recycling at a premise located at 36 Underwood Street, Oaks Estate ACT (Block 2099 Jerrabomberra). The metal recycling includes the partial dismantling and compaction of vehicles.

On 17 June 2018 there was a fire at the GRI Pty Ltd site. During the extinguishing of the fire, Environment Protection Officers and emergency services worked together to determine an appropriate response. Booms were placed within the creek line in the early stages of the fire and, as equipment became available, a contour bank and holding dam were put in place to capture fire water run-off. Due to the size of the fire and large volume of water used, there was water which discharged into the creek line which drained through paddocks into the Molonglo River.

The Environment Protection Order required the following:

1. Immediately store all used lead acid batteries undercover on banded pallets;
2. Immediately ensure all motor vehicles are decanted of all fluids and oils prior to dismantling and/or processing on a banded hardstand area under cover. Oils and fluids are to be disposed to a lawfully licensed facility;
3. Immediately ensure that all white goods (refrigeration) and vehicles (air conditioning) containing ozone depleting gasses are appropriately treated prior to processing by a suitably licenced person in accordance with the *Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995*;
4. Within one (1) month of the date of this order, provide the tonnage of waste material received at the site during the 2017-2018 financial year;
5. Within two (2) months of the date of this order, install a water catchment system around the lower perimeter of the GRI Pty Ltd site to capture and manage water runoff from the site; and
6. Within six (6) months of the date of this order, remove all motor vehicles stockpiled around the perimeter of the GRI Pty Ltd site.

Officers undertook inspections of the site to ensure compliance with the above directions. All directions have been complied with.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 25/11/19

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA