

**Question on Notice  
No. 744  
Asked on 18 June 2004**

QUESTION:

MS MALE asked the Minister for Environment (Mr Mickel)—

What steps has the Environmental Protection Agency taken to manage a chicken manure stockpile at Bassett Barks in my electorate?

ANSWER:

I take this opportunity to commend the Member for Glasshouse for her tireless efforts in working with the community, the company and officers of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) towards a solution on this matter.

In February 2004 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) carried out an intensive investigation into complaints about odour from the Bassett Barks Pty Ltd composting facility at Glasshouse Mountains.

The EPA issued an environmental protection order on 5 March 2004 to the company requiring it to immediately cease receiving chicken litter and to remove all chicken litter stored on site by 31 July 2004.

The Member will be pleased to hear that my department advises that as of 22 June the stockpile of chicken manure on this premises had been substantially removed, with the small amount remaining blended into a composted product. This is well ahead of the agreed deadline.

EPA officers routinely visit the site to check compliance with the environmental protection order. Compliance with the order is being achieved.

The EPA has also required substantial upgrades to the management of wastewater ponds on site. As at 21 June 2004, the company has fully desludged two of the wastewater ponds on this site.

Ongoing monitoring by the EPA is taking place to ensure that the site is managed to the highest possible standard.

This issue highlights the difficulties we are facing in striking a balance between catering for our rapidly growing population, protecting the environment and managing sustainable industries. When ever a residential development is allowed to occur near an existing industrial site, conflicts can and do arise.

It's often left to the EPA to find a balance between the lifestyle of residents and the viability of industry while at all times protecting the environment. I would urge local councils, industry and the community to work with the EPA to achieve this balance.