

**Question on Notice  
No. 292  
Asked on 6 March 2007**

**QUESTION:**

MS STONE asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to a proposed biomass plant at Mt Cotton in the Redlands—

- (1) What is the Environmental Protection Agency scientists' assessment of the plant?
- (2) Will the proposed plant impose any risks or impact to the residents of Shailer Park or Cornubia?
- (3) Has Redlands Council made a decision on the project?
- (4) What risk is there to the environment?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) As advised in my response to Mr English's Question on Notice No. 53, there is a proposal to establish a biomass plant at Mount Cotton in Redlands Shire, involving the construction of a power station, which will burn chicken litter to produce five megawatts of green energy. The proponent has submitted a development application to the Redland Shire Council. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a concurrence agency for the application and considered extensive environmental impact assessment information before issuing its response to the Council on 14 November 2006. The EPA provided conditions to the Council for inclusion in any development approval and considered that the plant would be able to be operated in a sustainable manner in accordance with those conditions.
- (2) Air pollution modelling of emissions from the plant predicted compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Policy for Air in the Mount Cotton area. The modelling indicates that areas further afield should receive negligible impact, and the residents of Shailer Park and Cornubia in particular should not experience any impact on air quality from this proposal.
- (3) The Redland Shire Council approved the application on 20 March 2007.
- (4) The risk to the environment from this power plant includes air contaminants such as particulates, oxides of nitrogen, odour, and noise. The development proposal includes suitable control equipment for all these aspects.

The generation of electricity using this renewable fuel will provide a positive contribution to Australia's greenhouse gas emission balance and reduce water pollution potential by removing the chicken litter from unsatisfactory uses; a win for the environment.