

**Question on Notice
No. 435
Asked on 13 March 2007**

QUESTION:

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No. 8 asked on 6 February 2007—

What other sources of best practice information is being considered by the Environmental Protection Agency in readiness for receipt of the Maroochy Shire Council proposal to site a bioreactor landfill north of Nambour at Kulangoor and, in particular, what other information is being sought from sources in Australia and overseas?

ANSWER:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not yet received an application from the Maroochy Shire Council for its proposal to develop a new landfill at Kulangoor.

In my response to Question on Notice No. 8, tabled on 8 March 2007, I advised that the EPA's guideline on siting, design, operation and rehabilitation criteria for new landfills will provide the basis for an assessment of the actual project proposed by the Council. The guideline is a comprehensive document that establishes the minimum criteria that the Council will need to address.

There is little difference between a conventional landfill and a bioreactor and, therefore, the guideline is appropriate for both landfill types. At this point in time, the EPA does not know what the final design will be, and whether the design presented by the Council will include any novel applications not anticipated.

As with any assessment process undertaken by the EPA, relevant information is obtained from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, academic literature, established networks, reported experiences of other regulatory bodies, and independent expert advice, as and when required. At the end of the day, the Council will need to demonstrate that the operation of this type of activity, in that location, will not cause environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

I have every confidence in the professionalism and skills of EPA officers to use the guideline, their knowledge and experience, and any other relevant information that will assist them in the assessment of a proposal.