

**Question on Notice  
No. 53  
Asked on Wednesday 7 February 2007**

**QUESTION:**

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

With reference to residents of Mt Cotton who are concerned about the impact of a proposed biomass plant—

What is the scientists in the Environmental Protection Agency assessment of the risks to people and the environment of this proposed plant?

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for the question.

The biomass plant proposed for Mt Cotton is a power station which will burn chicken litter to produce five megawatts of green energy. The proposal requires a development approval through Redland Shire Council as assessment manager. The Environmental Protection Agency is a concurrence agency for the application and has provided conditions to the Council which must be included should it choose to grant an approval.

Prior to providing these conditions, the EPA thoroughly assessed the application and the information provided with it. Modelling of the proposed air emissions was provided which predicted the emissions would meet recognised environmental standards. This modelling took into account the topography of the area surrounding the site.

The plant will have control equipment to remove particles and acid gases from the exhaust stream. There will be continual monitoring of the exhaust gases by electronic means to ensure that the set standards are met.

Having assessed these control measures and the modelling, and after comparing the proposed plant to similar facilities in the United Kingdom, the EPA considers that the plant will be able to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner without detrimentally impacting on the residents or the environment of the Mt Cotton area.