

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

- 9 AUG 2011

Tuesday, 21 June 2011

4242. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

In reference to the area surrounding the Horizontal Waterfalls in Talbot Bay in the Buccaneer Archipelago, Kimberley, and photographs at [http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata "2011-05-25 Fires Pegasus Horizontal Falls.pdf"](http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata/2011-05-25%20Fires%20Pegasus%20Horizontal%20Falls.pdf), I ask -

(1) Was any permission given to Pegasus Metals to clear tracts of land approximately 600 meters long for their exploration camp on their lease adjacent to the Horizontal Waterfalls?

(2) If yes to (1), when and why?

(3) If not to (1), will the department investigate who provided permission?

(4) If no permission was provided in respect of (1) or (3), will the Minister initiate prosecution of the offenders?

(5) Was permission sought or granted from the Department for Mines and Petroleum (DMP) for the lighting of fires on the Pegasus tenements surrounding the Horizontal Waterfalls?

(6) If yes to (5), will the Minister table the application and permission?

(7) If no to (5), what action will the Minister take to prosecute the perpetrators of these fires?

(8) Were the conditions favourable for lighting fires in the area of the Horizontal Waterfalls on Wednesday, 25 May 2011?

(9) If no to (8), what action will the Minister take against the perpetrators for lighting these fires at an inappropriate time?

(10) If these fires were unauthorised will the Minister ask the Derby or Broome Police to investigate who lit the fires and for what purpose?

(11) Has permission been given by the DMP for water to be pumped from a nearby spring to the mining camp established on the Pegasus lease?

(12) If yes to (11), when was this permission granted and why?

(13) If no to (11), is any action available to the Minister in respect of this matter?

(14) If yes to (13), will the Minister initiate such action?

Answer

- (1) A Programme of Work, accompanied with an Environmental Management Plan, was submitted to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) for exploration drilling and a temporary exploration camp on Exploration Licence 04/1441. The Programme of Work and the Environmental Management Plan detailed that an area not exceeding 600m² would be cleared using a whipper snipper and hand raking and was approved 11 October 2010.
- (2) The Programme of Work was approved on 11 October 2010 as its contents and the content of the Environmental Management Plan met DMP requirements for exploration proposals.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) It is not appropriate for the Minister for Mines and Petroleum to take action regarding the fires.
- (8) DMP does not regulate prescribed burning and does not monitor weather conditions relevant to burning.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) No.
- (11) No.
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) No.
- (14) Not applicable.



MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM