

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

10 AUG 2011

Thursday, 26 May 2011

4193. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development.

I refer to the proposed Lucknow, Phalaris, Milanese, Reward Ore body (ROB) open cuts, the Westralia Lode gold mineralization, the gold resources known as Mt Gleddon, Hidden Treasure, Fairplay, Red White and Blue, Sons of Gwalia, Charlotte Fault and Golden Dream located close to the Trans Australian Railway line, some of which are shown on the map drawn conceptually by myself from KCGM and other information located at [http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata 'Gold reserves.pdf'](http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata/Gold%20reserves.pdf) in the vicinity of the Mt Charlotte/Cassidy mining operations owned by Barrick Gold and Newmont Mining, managed by KCGM, and the Goldfields Esperance Region 2010-2020 Strategic Plan produced by the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC), and ask -

(1) Does the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) support Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM) advising the wider community including financial institutions that the superpit will potentially close in the year 2021, driving down community and business confidence in the region whilst at the same time KCGM has previously produced conceptual plans, internal, unofficial gold resources referred to above, and at the existing superpit, to continue mining to at least to 2040 with the superpit operations?

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

(3) If no to (1), why not?

(4) Within the last six months, has any employees, staff from KCGM, Barrick Gold or Newmont mining stated verbally or in writing to the GEDC that the superpit operations have a life expectancy beyond the year 2021, of at least 2030, and can be pushed out to the year 2040 and beyond?

(5) If yes to (4), on what date did this occur?

(6) With reference to (4), can the Minister state what has the GEDC done to encourage KCGM, Barrick or Newmont to be far more transparent with the wider community on its gold resources, mining conceptual potential to at least the year 2040, and plans to increase community and business confidence within the region?

(7) Within the last 6 months, has any employee, staff from KCGM, Barrick Gold or Newmont Mining indicated verbally or in writing to the GEDC that the Fimiston Mill is nearing its end of life requirements and the owners may or will commit to building a new mill in the future to sustain the operations of the superpit on the golden mile?

(8) If yes to (7), on what date did this happen?



Answer

(1) The Goldfields Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) Board has yet to formally discuss or arrive at a position in respect to this question.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Yes. The GEDC has received verbal advice that the Super Pit operations "may" have a life expectancy beyond 2021.

(5) 20/05/2011

(6) The GEDC met with the KCGM General Manager on Friday, 20/05/2011 to discuss what planning KCGM has done or is doing in respect of prolonging mine closure and looking at other development opportunities.

(7) No

(8) Not applicable.