

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

I refer to my previous question on notice No. 4549, and ask-

In regard to the negotiations between the State of Western Australia and the Commonwealth Government over access to Oobagooma Commonwealth defence land by Paladin for the exploration of uranium,

- 1) Will the Minister table the memorandum of understanding that has been prepared?
- 2) If no to (1.) why not?
- 3) What is the current status of negotiations between the State and the Commonwealth, what if any outcomes have been agreed?

In this instance where uranium mining is being considered on Commonwealth lands within Western Australia –

- 4) Which state and federal approvals will be required for Paladin to proceed with exploration, and then mining?
- 5) Please clarify the jurisdictional arrangements in this circumstance - what decision making responsibility does the State Minister have and what decision making responsibility will the Federal Minister have?

I thank the Hon Member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. Once the memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed by the Commonwealth Special Minister for State and myself.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Mines and Petroleum has finalised discussions with the Department of Finance and Deregulation. The MOU has been drafted and is currently awaiting signature from the Commonwealth Special Minister for State. The MOU outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the Commonwealth and the Western Australian Governments regarding the regulation of mineral exploration activities by Paladin Energy Pty Ltd within the Yampi Sound Training Area.
- (4)-(5) The MOU relates to mineral exploration activities only.

