

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

- 1 MAY 2012

Tuesday, 6 March 2012

5115. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

With regard to the proposed Toro Energy Wiluna uranium project, I ask -

(1) Did Toro Energy conduct a community consultation forum on 19 September 2011 in Wiluna?

(2) If yes to (1), did Toro Energy indicate that this forum was poorly attended?

(3) Was this forum conducted during a period of mourning for a senior Indigenous elder who was a resident of Wiluna?

(4) If yes to (3), does the Minister consider the holding of a community consultation forum during a period where community members are prevented for cultural reasons from attending such events to be appropriate conduct by a mining company in Western Australia?

Answer

- (1) No, however in 2011 Toro was involved in a number of local consultation events. The Honourable Robin Chapple may be referring to the public exhibition of the Environmental Review and Management Programme (ERMP) held by Toro on 18 August 2011. Other consultation events held by Toro throughout the year included:
- participation in a meeting of Traditional Owners - 16 March;
 - two day visit to project site by Traditional Owners to consider project configuration matters - 14 and 15 April;
 - meetings with Traditional Owners to discuss ERMP - 3 and 4 October; and
 - site visit with Traditional Owners to discuss alignment of haul road between Lake Way and Centipede deposits - 30 November.
- (2) These events were initiatives of the company. While the company may advise government that events are scheduled, it is under no obligation to report the outcome or attendance of those events.
- (3) The company advised the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) that the public exhibition of the ERMP on 18 August 2011 was arranged well in advance of this date as it was part of a series of such meetings also held in Kalgoorlie, Menzies and Leonora. Toro advertised the dates of these meetings in the regional press.

Just before the Wiluna meeting Toro became aware that a funeral was to be held in Wiluna on 18 August. After discussions with the Shire, the company elected to proceed with the exhibition.

- (4) Such events are beyond the control of the company. Before the public exhibition day in Wiluna, Toro had arranged to hold a further two-day ERMP consultation with Traditional Owners in October 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM