

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Wednesday, 17 October 2012

13 NOV 2012

6280. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

I refer to the Norseman Gold Operations including the Harlequin Mine, Bullen Mine, Okay Mine and North Royal Mine, and ask --

- (1) Are any of the above mentioned mines still in operation?
- (2) If yes to (1), which mines?
- (3) For the mines referred to above that are not in operation, were any of them subject to a prohibition notice or prohibition notices by the Department of Mines and petroleum (DMP)?
- (4) If yes to (3) --
 - (a) which mines were closed;
 - (b) for how long; and
 - (c) what specifically were the reasons for the closure of these mines?
- (5) If yes to (3), will the Minister table all written communications including written directions, improvement notices and prohibition notices regarding these operations, and specifically the concerns for which these mines were closed for the years --
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) 2010;
 - (d) 2011; and
 - (e) 2012?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?

Answer

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The North Royal Open Pit is the only mine producing at the moment.

(3) Yes.

(4)

(a) The Harlequin Underground Mine.

(b) Blasting, loading and hauling operations have been suspended since 13 July 2012.

(c) For the Prohibition Notice issued on 13 July 2012:

- No vehicle capable of transporting injured people as required by Regulation 4.27 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 (MSIR) was available.
- People trained in mine rescue equipment as required by Regulation 4.33(1)(b) were not available.
For the Prohibition Notice issued on 2 August 2012:
- Underground escape ways at the Harlequin Mine were inaccessible.

(5)-(6) Refer to Parliamentary Question No 6279.



MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM