

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

- 6 AUG 2013

Wednesday, 12 June 2013

108. Hon Robin Chappie to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development.

I refer to mineral lease 235SA containing the Mount Goldsworthy mine, and I ask:
(a) has acid forming material been detected in some of the waste dumps;
(b) if yes to (a), to what extent has this material caused ground water contamination;
(c) if yes to (a), what steps is the government taking to effect remediation of this contamination;
(d) when will any remediation work referred to in (c) begin; and
(e) who will provide the estimated \$100,000,000 needed to adequately rehabilitate this minesite?

Answer

Department of State Development advises:

(a) Yes.

(b) BHP Billiton Iron Ore's ground water monitoring results indicate that the ground water quality has not been impacted.

(c) In 2012 the government requested a proposal from BHP Billiton Iron Ore to address discharges from a waste dump. BHP Billiton Iron Ore submitted a programme of work to further investigate the location, quantity, testing of the potentially acid forming material and undertake hydrological studies. Results from the programme will be used to assist in the long term management of the waste dumps at the Mount Goldsworthy mine. In addition, BHP Billiton will report annually on progress and consult with government on a closure plan.

(d) Rehabilitation works are expected to commence following completion of the programme of work and analysis of remediation options in 2016.

(e) BHP Billiton Iron Ore is liable for the rehabilitation costs at the Mount Goldsworthy mine.

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