

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

Tuesday, 1 April 2014

995. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

I refer to the *Fracknation* poster which was an invitation extended to the staff at the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP), and provided to my office by the Community and Public Sector Union/Civil Service Association, and which may be found here: <http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata>, and I ask:

- (a) what was the reason for the DMP to promote this movie amongst staff and provide free viewing during their lunch break;
- (b) did the DMP provide the same promotion and viewing for the movie *Gasland*;
- (c) if no to (b), why not;
- (d) does the Minister think the promotion of this movie amongst staff is a breach of public sector standards;
- (e) if no to (d), why not;
- (f) if yes to (d), what action will the Minister take;
- (g) does the Minister think the promotion of this movie amongst staff compromises the independence and apolitical nature of the State's mining regulator;
- (h) if not to (g), why not; and
- (i) if yes to (g), what action will the Minister take?

Answer

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) advises:

- (a) DMP does not promote films. A shortened version of the film *Fracknation* was screened as part of a DMP lunch time question and answer session held with DMP petroleum experts.
- (b) The film *Gasland*, has been available for DMP staff to view on DVD, available at the DMP library. DMP staff were invited to borrow and view the DVD prior to the DMP lunch time question and answer session.
- (c) *Fracknation* addresses concerns surrounding the information presented in the anti-fracking film, *Gasland*.

(d) No

(e) The purpose of screening a shortened version of the film *Fracknation* was not to promote the film. It was screened as part of a DMP lunch time question and answer session held with DMP petroleum experts to help DMP employees understand community concerns and what regulations DMP has in place to protect the environment.

(f) Not applicable

(g) No

(h) See response to (e)

(i) Not applicable

