

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C476

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

Wednesday, 23 April 2014

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Education.

With regard to the Kimberley classroom presentations by representatives from Buru Energy Limited in March 2014, I ask:

1. Did the Minister give his permission for Buru Energy representatives to enter Kimberley schools and make presentations about the company's proposed hydraulic fracturing activities in the Canning Basin?
 - a. If yes, were there any guidelines issued for the talks?
 - b. If no, who did give permission allowing company representatives access?
 2. Will the Minister give permission for representatives of groups and organisations with concerns about Buru Energy's hydraulic fracturing program to go into schools to present an alternative view of the activity?
 - a. If no to 2, why not?
 - b. If yes to 2, what are the guidelines they should follow?
 3. Does the Minister think such presentations, whether for or against a practice that is clearly held to be contentious by the community, should be permitted in schools?
 - a. If yes to 3, will the Minister please provide guidelines to be followed by presenters?
 - b. If no to 3, why not?
-

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

1. No.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) School personnel sought input from Buru Energy about what jobs were available in the Kimberley and what skills applicants needed to have. The talks were about careers in petroleum and gas and not a presentation on rock fracturing. However, rock fracturing came up as a topic and the process was outlined.

2. No.

(a) It is up to the school to seek input from organisations to inform students on ranges of issues. Schools always try to ensure that children get a balanced education, particularly around contentious issues in the community.

(b) Not applicable.

3. Yes. Students should have opportunities to engage with contentious issues in the context of their learning program. These issues should be addressed in an age-appropriate manner and encourage consideration of a range of views and opinions.

(a) Guidelines are determined and applied by school staff when students are accessing information from a variety of sources.

(b) Not applicable.



Minister for Education