

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C925

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

Wednesday, 20 August 2014

Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy.

Regarding the Pilbara Underground Power Project (PUPP), it is my understanding that Horizon Power entered into a written agreement with representatives of Traditional Owners in Port Hedland, Roebourne, Karratha and Onslow to secure access to land and to otherwise facilitate underground power projects in those towns, I ask:

1. Can the Minister confirm that Horizon Power has entered into agreements with representatives of Traditional Owners in Port Hedland, Roebourne, Karratha and Onslow to secure access to land and to otherwise facilitate underground power projects in those towns?
2. In relation to Port Hedland, Roebourne, Karratha and Onslow, I ask that the Minister provide details of the agreements entered into, the parties involved, the locations involved, when the Agreements were entered into and what the status is of the major undertakings made by Horizon Power in each.
3. Can the Minister confirm that all training, employment and contracting opportunity obligations for Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations in these Agreements have been fully fulfilled?
4. To the extent that they have not been fully complied with, I ask the Minister to explain why this is the case?
5. Will the Minister confirm that the recently announced funding for a further stage of power infrastructure underground projects in Karratha and Onslow includes specific funding to ensure that all outstanding Traditional Owner Agreement obligations will be carried out?
6. If the funding does not include provision for Horizon Power's undertakings relating to land access and Native Title agreements, I ask that the Minister explain how the undertakings will be funded?
7. Does the Minister have confidence that Horizon Power will fulfil all its obligations to Traditional Owners groups associated with the underground projects.
8. What specific arrangements will the Minister put in place to ensure he has visibility of the extent that Horizon Power fully complies with these undertakings?

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

1. Horizon Power conducts native title and heritage searches at the commencement of every project including the Pilbara Underground Power project and I can confirm that any appropriate agreements have been concluded.

2. **Roebourne:** HP executed an area-wide Heritage Agreement with Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in 2010. Agreement obligations have been met to date. The Heritage Survey in Sept 2011 identified two Not Clear Work Areas (in Area 1), and Monitors will be engaged during initial ground disturbing activity in Area 1 (date TBA). HP will use the agreed Cultural Heritage Stop Work procedure during the project and will contact Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation should any sub-surface cultural material be uncovered.

Karratha: HP executed an area-wide Heritage Agreement with Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in 2010. Agreement obligations have been met to date. The Heritage Survey in Nov 2011 resulted in the work area being Cleared for Works. HP will use the agreed Cultural Heritage Stop Work procedure during the project (date TBA) and will contact Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation should any sub-surface cultural material be uncovered.

Onslow: HP executed a Deed of Land Access and heritage Agreement with the Buurabayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation in 2013. The Agreement covers the PUPP project area within Onslow. Agreement obligations have been met to date. Date for the heritage survey is yet to be scheduled. Works have not commenced yet in Onslow

South Hedland/Wedgefield: Efforts were made to negotiate an agreement for these works. A Heritage Survey with Marapikurrinya Native Title Claimant participants was undertaken in Sept 2011. Two Not Clear Work Areas were identified in the Wedgefield survey area; Marapikurrinya Heritage Monitors were engaged by HP during initial ground disturbance. The South Hedland survey area was Cleared for Works.

3. The Ngarluma Heritage Agreement does not include these conditions.

The Deed of Land Access and Heritage Agreement with the Buurabayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation does not include employment and contracting opportunity obligations. Cultural awareness Training will be undertaken prior to works commencing.

4. N/A

5. Yes

6. N/A

7. Yes

8. Horizon Power provides regular updates to the Minister on the status of this project.

M. Naba