

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C943

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

Tuesday, 9 September 2014

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

With regard to the mining company Polaris Metals NL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mineral Resources Limited (MRL), I ask:

- (1) Is Polaris Metals NL currently under investigation by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and/or the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) in relation to its mining activities or mine-related activities in the Yilgarn iron ore province?
- (2) If yes, will the Minister provide details as to what is being investigated and the status of the investigation, including when it commenced and when it is expected to be completed?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

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

- (1) Yes. Polaris Metals NL is currently under investigation by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER). Polaris Metals is not under investigation by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.
- (2) DER is currently investigating Polaris Metals in relation to its management of saline water produced from its mining operations, and reported alleged licence breaches at the site's wastewater treatment plant.

The saline water investigations relate to the alleged unauthorised discharge of saline water into gravel pits in September 2013, and the report of alleged unauthorised discharges of saline water into the site's waste rock dump in October 2013 and May 2014. These matters are still under investigation.

The reported alleged licence breaches relate to production capacity exceedences that started in May 2013 at the site's wastewater treatment plant. These investigations are nearly finalised and should be completed in the next few weeks.

- (3) Not applicable



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