

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 12 March 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

Regarding the ABC Online News story dated 20 February 2015, in which the Minister is reported as criticising protesters that he suspects of being involved in vandalising a wellhead at Yulleroo 2, 70km east of Broome, I ask:

1. Given that police investigations are ongoing, with police still gathering evidence, what is the basis for the Minister's public comments criticising the protesters?
2. Does the Minister have any evidence to hand that the protesters are guilty of damaging, or causing to be damaged, the apparatus at Yulleroo 2?
3. If not, will the Minister apologise to the protesters if they are found not to be involved in vandalising the equipment?

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

The Minister for Mines and Petroleum advises:

1. As the Minister responsible for safety in the WA onshore gas industry, I am concerned about any behaviour which may put lives at risk. Unauthorised entry into the Yulleroo 2 well site during the filming of the video which was later provided to the ABC is one example of irresponsible and dangerous behaviour. Blocking access to DMP inspectors who arrived at site to verify the claims of the video is another.
2. The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) is assisting the police with their ongoing investigations.
3. No

