

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 26 March 2015

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

Recent rainfall events (with decadal or longer return periods) are currently filling the salina systems of Lake Way and Lake Maitland associated with the Wiluna uranium proposal with conditional approval and the Wiluna extension which is in the Public Environmental Review preparation stage.

1. Given the timely occurrence of these events that has provided a unique opportunity to understand how these systems operate, will studies to measure their latent productivity and to detect endemic aquatic macro-invertebrates be undertaken?
2. Will the proponents now prepare defensible hydrodynamic and geochemical models for these salina systems and an accurate characterization of their biodiversity values?
3. Are the necessary environmental studies of the flooded systems currently underway?
4. If no to (1), (2) or (3) why not?

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

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

(1) – (4)


The Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) for the Extension to the Wiluna Uranium Project was approved by the Environmental Protection Authority on 18 February 2015.

In the ESD, there is a requirement for Toro to complete the following environmental and hydrological studies:

- L surface water, hydrological and flood studies in relation to mining at Millipede, Centipede, Lake Maitland and Lake Way;

2. hydrological studies and laboratory testing to estimate the frequency, magnitude and duration of flooding events which may affect the project area during or following the active life of the mine; and
3. external review of all hydrological studies.

Studies including a baseline aquatic ecology, project distribution of a new genus of ostracod and an aquatic assessment at Lake Maitland have been completed.



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