

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question on notice**

**Tuesday, 11 August 2015**

3286. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to the Koodaideri Iron Ore and Infrastructure Project, and ask:

- (a) does the Minister share the concerns of the Department of Health and the Shire of Ashburton that the site should not be disturbed;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) regarding the railway line that will run along the escarpment near Wittenoom, is the Minister concerned about the disturbance of the wetlands at the Koodaideri Springs itself;
- (d) if no to (c), why not;
- (e) will the Minister delay this mine until such time as the strictest environmental safeguards can be implemented; and
- (f) what public indemnity will the Government seek from Rio Tinto regarding the ecological/environmental safeguards and public health concerns?

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**Answer**

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (a)-(b) Ministerial Statement 999 contains a condition relating to the management of asbestos for the portion of the Western rail Corridor within the Wittenoom Asbestos Management Area, that requires consultation with the Department of Health.
- (c)-(d) No, as the railway line will be located over five kilometres north west of Koodaideri Spring and will therefore not disturb the spring.
- (e)-(f) The Minister for Environment considers that Ministerial Statement 999 contains strict environmental and public health safeguards following a rigorous public environmental review process.

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