

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C322

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

Tuesday, 5 April 2016

Hon Robin Chapple to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the Bulong Nickel Project (Mining Lease 25/97) which was forfeited on March 5, 2013, and ask:

1. Has the estimated cost of rehabilitating this site been calculated and if so, what is that cost?
2. Has the department received any complaints regarding and/or related to non-rehabilitation of this site and if so, on what dates were they received?
3. Has any work been done to initiate rehabilitation of this site?
4. If no to (3), why not?
5. Was the \$1.12 million bond previously on ML 25/97 transferred into the Mining Rehabilitation Fund, held by the DMP or into General revenue?
6. If no to (5), what happened to this money?

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) Yes. The cost of rehabilitating the site has been estimated as per the Mining Rehabilitation Fund rates. The rehabilitation liability estimate for the tailing storage facility is \$6 854 280.
- (2) The department cannot find any record of a complaint against this site.
- (3) No.
- (4) Prior to the introduction of the Mining Rehabilitation Fund, there was no dedicated source of funding to rehabilitate abandoned mine sites, and the Unconditional Performance Bond held for Bulong was not sufficient to rehabilitate the site. Bulong has been identified as a high priority for rehabilitation, which will be undertaken using a mixture of the bond and interest generated through the Mining Rehabilitation Fund.
- (5) The Unconditional Performance Bond is held in a trust account administered by the Department of Mines and Petroleum as per legislative requirements.
- (6) Refer to response to question 5.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' with a horizontal line extending to the right, and a smaller 'SK' or similar mark to the left.