

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C528

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

Tuesday, 18 May 2016

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

I refer to the operations of Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd (YPF) (Licence: L7997/2002/11) on the Burrup Peninsula, and the release of 14 tonnes of Ammonia Gas and ask:

1. Given that the alarm was triggered at the boundary between the Yara Pilbara Fertilisers site and the Technical Ammonium Nitrate plant were the employees and staff of the Technical Ammonium Nitrate plant or the Yara Pilbara Fertilisers plant evacuated?
2. If no to 1,) why not?
3. Did the employees and staff of the Technical Ammonium Nitrate plant or the Yara Pilbara Fertilisers plant put on protective clothing and or breathing apparatus?
4. If no to 3.) why not?
5. What action is the department taking to ensure the safety of all personnel at nearby industries and communities?
6. On what date and time was the department advised of the release of 14 tonnes of ammonia gas?
7. Will the Minister release Yara's Incident Investigation report and if not, why not?

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) No.
- (2) The incident did not require personnel to evacuate.
- (3) Yes, as required for personnel to manage the incident.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) On 4 to 6 May 2016 the Department of Mines and Petroleum undertook an audit of Yara processes which covered aspects of emergency response, including the effectiveness of their alerting system and advice to any off-site communities.
- (6) The Department of Mines and Petroleum was advised in writing by Yara of a release of ammonia on 28 of March 2016 at 2:02 pm.
- (7) No. The report is a Yara investigation report, not a Department of Mines and Petroleum report.

