

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 18 May 2016

C529. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the operations of Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd (YPF) (Licence: L7997/2002/11) and Yara Pilbara Nitrates Pty Ltd (YPN) (W4701/2010/1) on the Burrup Peninsula, and ask:

- (1) How many reportable incidents of venting or leaks have there been in the last year?
- (2) Was there an incident involving a Motor Operated Valve on the 16th January 2016?
- (3) If yes what was the size and chemical component of the leak or vent?
- (4) What was the prevailing wind at the time of the incident?
- (5) On what date/s was the department advised of the incident and did they visit the site?

Answer

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

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (1) 10.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The licensee reported that 4,601 tonnes of process gas were vented to the atmosphere between 17:30 on 16 January 2016 and 06:00 on 20 January 2016. The estimated composition of the gas vented is as follows:

Nitrogen (N₂) – 2,681 tonnes
Carbon dioxide (CO₂) – 959 tonnes
Hydrogen (H₂) – 451 tonnes
Methane (CH₄) – 182 tonnes
Carbon monoxide (CO) – 136 tonnes
Water (H₂O) – 125 tonnes
Argon (Ar) – 53 tonnes
Ethane (C₂H₆) – 14 tonnes
No ammonia was vented.
- (4) The prevailing wind direction at 15:00 on the first day of the incident, as monitored at Karratha airport, was from the North-North-East. The incident duration was over three days, and wind direction and speed varied over this time.
- (5) The Department of Environment Regulation was notified of the incident at 13:51 on 18 January 2016. The Department did not attend the site as the release was considered low risk as it primarily consisted of atmospheric gases.

