

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Thursday, 11 May 2017

C018. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to an incident that occurred at Woodside Energy's Karratha Gas Plant at 11.30am on Saturday, 15 April 2017 and to the following pictures of said incident that can be found on my website:

- <http://robinchapple.com/2017-04-15woodsidekgpincident1>
- <http://robinchapple.com/2017-04-15woodsidekgpincident2>
- <http://robinchapple.com/2017-04-15woodsidekgpincident3>
- <http://robinchapple.com/2017-04-15woodsidekgpincident4>

and ask:

1. What was the electrical fault that caused the incident?
2. Has an inquiry into the incident been established?
3. Was this a code black emergency and is this the highest level of emergency out of how many levels?
4. Were workers at the plant mustered on site or ordered to evacuate and if so, for how long?
5. Were members of the public at adjacent beaches warned about the incident and evacuated?
6. What was the amount of gas that was vented or flared?

Answer

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

1. An electrical fault in a Sub-Station as a result of a compressor motor short circuit.
2. Yes. An investigation is ongoing.
3. 'Code Black' is not a Woodside or Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) term. There are four categories used by DMP to describe incident events. This incident is currently defined as a category 3 (the highest category being category 4) requiring Woodside to thoroughly investigate and report the findings to DMP.
4. Workers were mustered on site and there was no evacuation. DMP has not received information on how long workers were held at their mustering sites.
5. No
6. The flaring of gas is consistent with the control processes for this type of incident. The amount of gas flared will be determined from the ongoing investigation.



MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM