

MINES AND PETROLEUM — VIMY RESOURCES — MULGA ROCK URANIUM PROJECT

88. Hon Robin Chapple to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:
- (1) I refer to Vimy Resources proposed Mulga Rocks uranium project in the Eastern Goldfields:
- (a) has any native vegetation previously been cleared at the project site:
    - (i) when did this clearing occur;
    - (ii) was a permit to clear native vegetation provided at every instance;
    - (iii) if a permit was not required, why not;
    - (iv) was a report ever provided on the impacts clearing at this site would have on native fauna;
    - (v) if no to (iv), why not; and
    - (vi) is the impact of clearing on native fauna at this site unknown;
  - (b) have any roads been previously cleared to the project site:
    - (i) name all roads;
    - (ii) when was each named road cleared;
    - (iii) was a clearing permit provided for each instance;
    - (iv) if no to (b)(iii), why not;
    - (v) was a report ever provided on the impacts that clearing this road(s) would have on native fauna; and
    - (vi) if no to (v), why not;
  - (c) have any buildings or other infrastructure been erected, constructed or otherwise placed at the project site;
  - (d) are there any operations currently being undertaken at the project site:
    - (i) have any operations, other than aforementioned clearing, previously been undertaken at the project site;
    - (ii) are there any planned operations at the site; and
    - (iii) please table information pertaining to (ii);
  - (e) are there any personnel situated at the site:
    - (i) if yes to (e), what is their purpose;
  - (f) is there regular personnel movements to and from the site:
    - (i) if yes to (f), what is their purpose;
  - (g) please provide detailed information of all previous mineral surveys conducted at the site;
  - (h) please provide detailed information of all previous digs conducted at the site;
  - (i) has any ore material ever been removed from the site:
    - (i) when did this occur;
    - (ii) why did this occur; and
    - (iii) on how many occasions has this occurred;
  - (j) is there waste material stored at the site:
    - (i) what quantity of waste material; and
    - (ii) is there uranium byproduct contained in this waste material;
  - (k) has an Aboriginal heritage survey ever been conducted at the site:
    - (i) please provide detailed information of every Aboriginal heritage survey conducted at the site historically; and

- (ii) does the Minister believe this is an acceptable level of consultation for a project of this nature;
- (l) has section 18 consent been applied for under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- (m) has section 18 consent been granted by the Minister under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- (n) is section 18 consent required for this project;
- (o) if no to (l), (m) or (n) why not;
- (p) does the project have Native Vegetation Clearing Approval from Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP);
- (q) does the project have State Works Approval and Licensing under part 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act*, from the Department of Environmental Regulation;
- (r) is there a Project Management Plan from DMP;
- (s) has the project provided notification of principal employer under section 32 of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act (MSIA)*;
- (t) has there been appointment of a registered manager under sections 33/34 of the MSIA;
- (u) has there been appointment of a certificated UG Manager under sections 35/36 of the MSIA;
- (v) has there been appointment of a Certificated Quarry Manager under sections 37/38 of the MSIA;
- (w) does the project have a *Radiation Management Plan Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations (MSIR) r16.27*;
- (x) does this include approval to remove radioactive material under MSIR r16.27;
- (y) has there been appointment of RSO under MSIR r16.9;
- (z) has an application for registration of premises/nomination of RSA been submitted;
- (aa) does the project have dangerous goods approval from DMP;
- (bb) does the project have a license to take water under section 5 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act (RIWIA)* from the Department of Water (DOW);
- (cc) does the project have a license to construct or alter a well under section 26(d) of the RIWIA from DOW;
- (dd) does the project have a 'Bed and Banks' permit from DOW;
- (ee) does the project have uranium export approvals from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS);
- (ff) does the project have safeguards approval from the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO);
- (gg) does the project have a permit to possess nuclear material under section 13(1) under the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987* from ASNO;
- (hh) does the project have a permit to transport nuclear material under section 16(1) under the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987* from ASNO;
- (ii) does the project have a permit to establish nuclear facility under section 16A(1) under the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987* from ASNO;
- (jj) does the project have a groundwater monitoring management plan for final environmental approval;
- (kk) does the project have a seepage monitoring management plan for final environmental approval;
- (ll) does the project have a flora response to fire management plan for final environmental approval;
- (mm) does the project have a seed ecology management plan for final environmental approval;
- (nn) does the project have a soil water dynamics management plan for final environmental approval;
- (oo) does the project have a plant water use management plan for final environmental approval;
- (pp) does the project have a overburden physical and hydraulic characterisation management plan for final environmental approval;

- (qq) does the project have a slow and material stability management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (rr) does the project have a wind erosion management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (ss) does the project have a geochemical characterisation management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (tt) does the project have a column leaching management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (uu) does the project have a tailings rheology management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (vv) does the project have a seepage analysis management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (ww) does the project have a solute fate and transport management plan for final environmental approval;
  - (xx) does the project have a compliance assessment plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (yy) does the project have a flora and vegetation monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (zz) does the project have a terrestrial fauna monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (aaa) does the project have an Aboriginal Heritage Management plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (bbb) does the project have a groundwater monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (ccc) does the project have a soil monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister;
  - (ddd) does the project have a tailings storage facility monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister; and
  - (eee) does the project have an above ground tailings storage facility monitoring and management plan required by the State Environment Minister?
- (2) With respect to everything in (1), does Vimy Resources have all necessary approvals to mine and export yellow cake uranium out of Western Australia from the proposed Mulga Rocks uranium project in the Eastern Goldfields?

**Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:**

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (i) Between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.
  - (ii) No.
  - (iii) Clearing for exploration was undertaken under Environment Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, Regulation 5, item 25.
  - (iv) Yes, as part of the Mining Proposal and relevant approvals under Environmental Protection Act 1986.
  - (v) Not applicable.
  - (vi) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (i) There are no named roads, only access tracks.
  - (ii) The access tracks were cleared onwards from October 2015.
  - (iii) No.
  - (iv) An exemption was enabled under Environment Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, Regulation 5, item 25.
  - (v) Yes. For those parts not included within the exemption, the Mining Proposal and relevant approvals under Environmental Protection Act 1986 reported on impacts upon fauna.

- (vi) Not applicable.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
  - (i) Yes.
  - (ii) Yes.
  - (iii) [See tabled paper no 461.]
- (e) Yes.
  - (i) Camp Supervisor/Senior Field Technician; Scientific Officer, combining the functions of Radiation Safety Technician (and Surface Ventilation Officer); and Environmental Technician; Cook/cleaner; Field Technician. Short-term contractors are also used for specific tasks, subject to the resourcing needs of various work programs carried out on site.
- (f) Yes.
  - (i) See (e)(i).
- (g) The full list of those open-file reports is attached [see tabled paper no .]. Additional recent mineral exploration reports are held by DMIRS, but are confidential under provisions of the Mining Act 1978.
- (h) As this information is not required to be lodged with DMIRS the provision of this volume of information would require considerable research which would divert staff attention away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response.
- (i) Yes.
  - (i) Between Oct 2015 and 2017.
  - (ii) For the purposes of mining and exploration.
  - (iii) As this information is not required to be lodged with DMIRS the provision of this volume of information would require considerable research which would divert staff attention away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response.
- (j) Yes.
  - (i) Approximately twenty tonnes.
  - (ii) No.
- (k) This is the responsibility of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and I recommend that the question be directed to him for a response.
  - (i) See 1(k).
  - (ii) See 1(k).
- (l) See 1(k).
- (m) See 1(k).
- (n) See 1(k).
- (o) Not Applicable.
- (p) Yes.
- (q) This is the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and I recommend that the question be directed to him for a response.
- (r) Yes.
- (s) Yes.
- (t) Yes.
- (u) No. Only open pit operations are planned for the site.
- (v) Yes.

- (w) Yes.
  - (x) Yes.
  - (y) Yes.
  - (z) This is the responsibility for the Minister for Health and I recommend that the question be directed to him for a response.
  - (aa) No. Dangerous goods at the site are currently below manifest quantity.
  - (bb) This is the responsibility of the Minister for Water and I recommend that the question be directed to him for a response.
  - (cc) See 1(bb).
  - (dd) See 1(bb).
  - (ee) This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.
  - (ff) This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.
  - (gg) This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.
  - (hh) This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.
  - (ii) This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.
  - (jj) This is the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and I recommend that the question be directed to him for a response.
  - (kk) See 1(jj).
  - (ll) See 1(jj).
  - (mm) See 1(jj).
  - (nn) See 1(jj).
  - (oo) See 1(jj).
  - (pp) See 1(jj).
  - (qq) See 1(jj).
  - (rr) See 1(jj).
  - (ss) See 1(jj).
  - (tt) See 1(jj).
  - (uu) See 1(jj).
  - (vv) See 1(jj).
  - (ww) See 1(jj).
  - (xx) See 1(jj).
  - (yy) See 1(jj).
  - (zz) See 1(jj).
  - (aaa) See 1(jj).
  - (bbb) See 1(jj).
  - (ccc) See 1(jj).
  - (ddd) See 1(jj).
  - (eee) See 1(jj).
- (2) No.