

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice


Wednesday, 13 February 2019

C002. Hon Robin Scott to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

1. Will the Minister confirm that in an article published in the Kalgoorlie Miner of Wednesday 6 February 2019, Hon Mia Davies MLA wrote in reference to concessions allegedly given to BHP and Rio Tinto: *"This was done, in part, to offset the companies' obligations under their State Agreements to develop downstream processing."*
2. Will the Minister confirm that the relevant State Agreements oblige the companies to investigate the feasibility of secondary processing and the feasibility of an integrated iron and steel industry, but do not impose on the companies obligations to develop downstream processing?
3. Will the Minister confirm that the relevant State Agreements affirm that no future Act of Western Australia will operate to increase the liabilities or obligations of the companies with respect to rents or royalties?

Answer

1. This part of the question lies outside the Minister's responsibility.
2. The processing obligations for the relevant State Agreements vary depending on the State Agreement and were triggered by annual production limits. Both BHP and Rio Tinto have met their processing obligations under the earlier State Agreements.
3. The relevant 1963 and 1964 Agreements contain such a provision. The provision does not prevent the State and the relevant Company from agreeing amendments to their State Agreements to increase both rents and royalties. Such increases have been agreed by the parties over the years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'A' followed by a smaller capital 'h' and a period.