

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Tuesday, 26 November 2019**

**C1511. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum**

I refer to the Rio Tinto's iron ore mining facility in Tom Price and ask:


1. Were workers exposed to a chemical or gaseous release at the Rio Tinto iron ore facilities at or near Tom Price in the last month?
2. If yes to (1), what was the nature of the gas or chemical release?
3. If yes to (1), what was the nature of the exposure to workers, and how many workers were affected?
4. Were any of the workers treated on site or at a medical facility as a result?
5. If yes to (4), how many workers received treatment, when and over what duration?
6. If yes to (4), what was the prognosis for these patients?

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**Answer**

**I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.**

1. The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety was notified of two incidents involving possible gas exposure at a mining operation near Tom Price during October 2019.
- 2-3. On 1 October 2019, two employees were affected by black shale gas while assessing a work area in the pit. The employees were assessed and monitored at the Tom Price hospital and released the same day. Both employees returned to work on full duties the following morning.  
On 17 October 2019, an employee reported feeling the effects of gas exposure while driving out of the pit. The worker was taken to the Tom Price Hospital as a precaution.
- 4-6. The three employees were assessed and monitored at the Tom Price Hospital on the days of the respective exposure and were released on the same day. They were not admitted as an inpatient to the hospital. The three employees have returned to normal duties.

  
26/11/19