

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Wednesday, 12 February 2020

C056. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

With regard to the recent and catastrophic flooding in Wiluna from Tropical Cyclone Blake and the proposed Wiluna uranium mine, I ask:

1. Will the Department be reviewing or requiring the proponent, Toro Energy, to review and assess the structural impacts to the test pit on the edge of Lake Way which was completed?
2. If no to (1), why not?
3. The area proposed for tailings storage known as 'Centipede' was inundated with water in the 2015 flood, will the Minister or Department be reviewing the flood impact on the proposed tailings storage facility or requiring the proponent to report on this aspect?
4. If no to (3), why not?
5. Given the increased intensity and frequency of flooding in that region of WA, will the Minister and/or Department be reviewing the sustainability for tailings storage containing radioactive material on the edge of Lake Way?
6. If no to (5), why not?

Answer

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

1. Yes, Toro Energy is required to continuously review the integrity of the rehabilitated test pit to ensure they comply with all tenement conditions. The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will ensure there are no adverse impacts via the monitoring it undertakes under its compliance regime.
2. Not applicable
3. This aspect was assessed via the previous environmental assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and associated Ministerial Statement issued in 2012. It is also noted that Toro Energy is yet to submit a Mining Proposal for assessment under the *Mining Act 1978*. Further assessment will occur by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety via the Mining Proposal assessment process under the *Mining Act 1978* and Project Management Plan assessment process under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*.
4. Not applicable
5. This aspect was appropriately assessed via the previous environmental assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and associated Ministerial Statement issued in 2012. Further assessment will occur via the Mining Proposal assessment process under the *Mining Act 1978* and Project Management Plan assessment process under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*.
6. Not applicable

Bill John
12/2/20