

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 3 January 2012

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers received after Thursday, 1 December 2011

Questions and answers appear as supplied to Hansard.

### SAND MINE PROPOSAL — YULE RIVER

6820. Mr T.G. Stephens to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

Regarding the proposal to establish a sand mine on the Yule River near Port Hedland, I ask:

- (a) can the minister ensure that this mining proposal will be carefully scrutinised to ensure there is no negative effect on the Yule River, which is a Priority 1 water source for Port Hedland and supplies 60% of the town's potable water; and
- (b) if the proposal is approved, can the minister advise what checks and balances will be implemented to ensure that Dumpna Pty Ltd does not violate any provisos placed on the project by the Department of Water or the Department for the Environment?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (a) All mining proposals are carefully scrutinised by the Department of Mines and Petroleum to ensure that any potential environmental impacts are minimised.

To carry out mining activities on a granted mining lease under the *Mining Act 1978*, Dumpna Pty Ltd is required to lodge a mining proposal to the Department of Mines and Petroleum which meets the requirements of the Mining Proposal Guidelines. During the assessment of the mining proposal, the Department of Mines and Petroleum will assess the impacts and intended management to ensure they are appropriate for the activity and the environment. As the tenements relevant to this project are within a water reserve and river system, the following matters will occur as part of the Department of Mines and Petroleum's standard practice for mining proposal assessment.

1. The Department of Mines and Petroleum will consult the Department of Water to ensure that the proposal and environmental management is compatible with the purpose of the water reserve. Specific conditions relating to water management may be imposed on the tenement holder as a result of this process.
  2. If the proposal is likely to have a significant impact on a water reserve, under the Department of Mines and Petroleum and Environmental Protection Authority "Memorandum of Understanding", the Department of Mines and Petroleum will liaise with Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on whether the proposal should be formally referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Authority 1986*.
  3. The clearing of native vegetation located within the Yule River will require assessment by the Native Vegetation Branch of the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- (b) If the mining proposal is approved, the project will be placed within the Department of Mines and Petroleum annual environmental reporting system and inspection register. Each year Dumpna Pty Ltd will be required to submit an annual environmental report detailing the company's performance against their tenement conditions and environmental commitments.

Further, inspections of the Yule River site will be conducted as part of the Department of Mines and Petroleum's risk-based annual inspection program.