

MINING ACT — EXPLORATION LICENCE APPROVALS

549. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I ask this question on behalf of Hon Dr Brad Pettitt, who is out of the chamber on urgent parliamentary business.

I refer to Odessa Minerals' application for an exploration licence for tenement 04/2697 that encroaches into the Windjana Gorge National Park.

- (1) Can the minister detail what procedures are in place to meet the requirement in the Mining Act 1978 to consult with the responsible minister before approval for mining in a national park can be given?
- (2) Can the minister indicate what procedures are in place to meet the requirement in the Mining Act that before a mining or general purpose lease is granted for mining in a national park, both houses of Parliament must, by resolution, consent to it?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The application is reviewed against coexistent tenure, including national parks, to identify any requirement for ministerial consent. If the applicant intends to undertake mining within the national park, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, under delegations, writes to the Minister for Environment seeking concurrence to mining being carried out in the national park. The application is then submitted to cabinet, together with schedules of conditions and resolutions seeking the consent of each house of Parliament. The minister, or his representative, then presents a resolution to each house by way of notice of motion and obtains their consent thereto.