

BHP BILLITON — MINING ACCESS PERMITS TO ABORIGINAL LANDS

3223. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

- (1) How many requests for mining access permits to aboriginal lands were submitted by BHP Billiton or any of its subsidiaries in 2009-10?
- (2) On how many occasions has the final decision by the Minister been different to the original recommendation of the Aboriginal Lands Trust?
- (3) Do staff from the Minister's Office ever liaise with the Aboriginal Lands Trust regarding mining access permits to aboriginal lands?
- (4) Do staff from the Minister's Office ever liaise with the applicant regarding mining access permits to aboriginal lands?
- (5) Which members of the Minister's staff are involved in the liaison referred to in (3) and (4), and what level are they?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

- (1) One (BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd).
- (2) None.
- (3)-(4) In granting an authority to a person to enter or remain on reserved lands, the Minister and his staff consult with the Aboriginal Lands Trust as per the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 and liaise with stakeholders including the Department of Indigenous Affairs, applicants and Aboriginal people.
- (5) In supporting the Minister in their professional capacity, all staff from time to time may come into contact with those referred to.