

MINING ACT — EXPLORATION LICENCE APPROVALS

770. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to Odessa Australia Pty Ltd's application for an exploration licence for tenement 04/2697, and I ask:

- (a) (a) will the Minister explain why Odessa Australia Pty Ltd have not given notice of application for an exploration licence for tenement 04/2697 to Traditional Owners who are occupants of the land where the tenement is located, as required by section 58 of the *Mining Act 1978*; and
- (b) (b) will the Minister explain what steps will be taken to ensure that notice of all applications for licences under the *Mining Act 1978*, will be given to Aboriginal occupants of land, where such service is a mandatory requirement?

Hon Matthew Swinbourn replied:

- (a) Odessa Australia Pty Ltd has met the notification requirements of the *Mining Act 1978* (Act).
Odessa Australia Pty Ltd's application for an exploration licence is currently subject to an objection, and is before the Warden's Court.
Following the Warden's consideration of the objection, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (Department) will complete its *Mining Act 1978* compliance assessment. The Department will then notify any native title parties in accordance with the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).
This notice would be provided to the Registered Native Title Body Corporate.
- (b) The Department undertakes an assessment of all land interests intersecting with tenement applications to determine the notification requirements under both the *Mining Act 1978* and *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).
The Department requires evidence from the applicant demonstrating that they have met any notification requirements. As above, the Department will also notify any native title parties in accordance with the future act provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).