

MINERAL RESOURCES LTD — HELENA AND AURORA RANGES

**734. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to Mineral Resources' Jackson 5 and Bungalbin East proposal to mine between 65 million tonnes and 115 million tonnes of iron ore in the Yilgarn. After running an election campaign on jobs for WA, will the Premier be approving this project or will his government allow 425 direct jobs and 1 000 indirect jobs to disappear?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question; it is obviously an important issue. The Minister for Environment has released a report in which he has dismissed the appeals in relation to the Environmental Protection Authority report into what is commonly known as the Bungalbin Aurora mining proposal. He has dismissed the appeals. What he has now done is written to interested parties, as I understand across government, seeking feedback on that decision, prior to making a final decision on those issues. A process is currently going on that is quite an important legislative process, as I understand it, dictated by the Environmental Protection Act. I will let that process run its course, and then the minister and/or the cabinet, depending upon what feedback the minister receives, will make a decision on those matters at that point in time.