

MT MANNING RANGE NATURE RESERVE - BANDED IRONSTONE RANGES

333. Hon ANTHONY FELS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

In view of the Environmental Protection Authority's recommendation to ban further mining in the banded ironstone ranges within the Mt Manning Range Nature Reserve -

- (1) When will the minister make a decision to either ban or allow further mining in the Mt Manning reserve?
- (2) Will the minister consider the economic and social benefits of mining to the local communities of the region when making his decision?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank Hon Anthony Fels for some notice of this question. The Minister for the Environment has provided the following response -

- (1) The EPA's recommendations specifically recognised existing approved mining projects. Further mining proposals would need to go through due process under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. At the end of an environmental impact assessment, the Minister for the Environment, in consultation with other involved ministers, decides whether a proposal should proceed on environmental grounds; and, if so, under what conditions.
- (2) Yes. The minister will make decisions consistent with the broad interests of Western Australia. Such decisions will be informed by the current strategic review of conservation, economic and social values of banded ironstone formations of the mid-west and Yilgarn regions being conducted jointly by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Industry and Resources. The minister has asked that the EPA's advice about the Mt Manning area be considered in that strategic review.