

MINING APPROVALS INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP — MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

310. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the article on the PerthNow website, titled “More leaked documents add to drama”, posted on 28 March 2009.

- (1) Has the minister seen the lead agency model being considered by the mining approvals industry working group?
- (2) In the minister’s view, would this model improve the existing system?
- (3) If yes to (2), why?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?
- (5) What advice has the minister provided to or sought from the Premier in relation to the model?
- (6) What advice has the minister provided to or sought from the Minister for Mines and Petroleum in relation to this model?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(6) As the house was advised yesterday by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, the working group has not made any recommendations to the minister. When it does, they will be the views of the industry, which the minister will then take to the ministerial task force chaired by the Premier, of which I am a member. The task force will report to cabinet on any decisions made. I do not intend to pre-empt the proper process; however, there is no intention to reduce the role of the Minister for Environment in the approvals process. It should also be noted that, following the release of the Environmental Protection Authority’s environmental impact assessment review on Monday, I have stated that I will be establishing an environmental stakeholder advisory committee comprising representatives from conservation industry groups to consider the outcomes of this review and the current native vegetation clearing review when completed and to provide advice on future legislative reform within the environment portfolio.