

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

249. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to an article in *The West Australian* of 25 May 2017 headed, “Industry told to get community behind fracking”, in which the Minister for Mines and Petroleum reiterated that fracking would be on hold subject to a broad-ranging inquiry.

- (1) Given the two-year broad-ranging parliamentary inquiry conducted under the previous government, and the current dire position of the finances of this state, why is another inquiry needed?
- (2) What would a second inquiry cost?
- (3) Is the Premier aware that two government members participated in that inquiry, one being the current Minister for Environment?
- (4) Is the Premier aware that there was no dissenting report by those members?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) The government committed during the election to hold a scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracture stimulation—fracking.
- (2) The government is unable to provide an estimate of costs of the inquiry at this time as it has not completed the process of determining how this commitment will be met.
- (3)–(4) Yes.