

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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

I refer to yesterday's *The West Australian* article "Frack me later, maybe: Labor" and the former Labor federal resources minister's comments, following the WA government's announcement, that it is "yet another inquiry" into hydraulic fracturing. The former Labor minister said —

It's a proved method of development, it's safe and I hope that it is a positive outcome for the sake of job opportunities for WA,"

- (1) Is the former Labor resources minister correct that the decision for yet another inquiry is just another "marginal seat consideration" and that another inquiry was motivated more by politics than policy?
- (2) Has the government assessed the impact of delays on job opportunities in Western Australia?
- (3) What was the selection process for the inquiry's panel members?
- (4) What are the terms of their remuneration?
- (5) What is the anticipated time frame for the completion of the inquiry?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) On the basis of information available to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, no company currently undertaking oil and gas exploration or production onshore in Western Australia has plans to undertake hydraulic fracturing for at least the next 12 months. Therefore, any potential impact on job opportunities over the inquiry period is considered minimal.
- (3)–(5) The inquiry is being conducted under the Environmental Protection Act 1986; therefore, these questions should be redirected to the Minister for Environment.