

LITHIUM MINING — GREENBUSHES

577. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the announcement that the Greenbushes lithium mine plans to double its production volume in coming years.

- (1) As part of the Department of Mines and Petroleum processes to approve the expansion of this mine, was consideration given to the impact of increased traffic on local communities and a requirement set to use rail to transport its product?
- (2) If no to (1), why did the government not apply its policy of “strongly supporting the use of rail for heavy freight when economically and operationally feasible”?
- (3) Did the minister consult with the Minister for Transport in relation to the approval of the mine expansion and the traffic impacts it will have on South Western Highway?
- (4) Will the minister commit to requiring the mine operator to transport the increased production volume via the existing Picton–Greenbushes rail line?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is yet to assess or approve an expansion of the Greenbushes lithium mine to double its production. The company will be required to undertake extensive community consultation as part of any assessment process.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No, also noting that the line is currently not operational.