

MAGELLAN METALS — SAFETY STANDARDS BREACH

**32. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the recent issues that have come to light regarding Magellan Metals Pty Ltd's breach of safety standards.

- (1) Is it true that Magellan's own documentation states that there have been breaches of transport conditions dating back to October 2009?
- (2) Is it a fact that a May 2010 inspection of Magellan's Wiluna mine site found bags leaning against stockpiles of lead, so that the outside of the bags were contaminated with lead dust?
- (3) Is it the case that in June 2010, Inspectorate Australia reported that some bags containing lead carbonate exceeded safety standards by more than 300 kilograms, and that in the inspector's opinion, the handwritten weights had been adjusted downwards so that they would not be identified by the inspectors as being overweight?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

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

The Minister for Environment has provided the following information —

- (1) The Magellan lead carbonate project at Wiluna is currently the subject of a forensic audit, as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged breaches of the ministerial conditions. The investigation will determine whether any noncompliances with implementation conditions have occurred, and inform what action will be taken.
- (2) The Inspectorate Australia audit report of May 2010 identified one departure from the procedures within the health, hygiene and environmental management plan as a noncompliance. On 30 June 2010, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority drew this to Magellan's attention, and corrective actions were put in place.
- (3) Inspectorate Australia's Magellan lead project monthly report of June 2010 identified that bulk bags were being filled with lead carbonate concentrate in excess of the 2 000-kilogram limit. Inspectorate Australia immediately advised the senior management of Magellan Metals Pty Ltd of the failure to comply with its requirement under the health, hygiene and environmental management plan, and corrective actions were put in place.