

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING — SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

**572. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the government's recent announcement that a panel will conduct a scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracking.

- (1) Have the panel members been appointed?
- (2) If, yes to (1), what was the selection process; how many members were appointed; what are their fields of expertise; and what are the terms of their remuneration?
- (3) What are the terms of reference for the inquiry?
- (4) What is the anticipated time frame for the completion of the inquiry?
- (5) Will there be any further inquiries into hydraulic fracking by this government?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

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

- (1) No. However, contract negotiations are underway and we expect the appointments to take place shortly.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The scientific inquiry is to undertake an assessment and report on the potential impacts arising from the implementation of hydraulic fracture stimulation—fracking—on the environment of Western Australia, outside of the Perth metropolitan, Peel and south west regions. The inquiry will identify environmental, health, agricultural, heritage and community impacts associated with the process of hydraulic fracture stimulation in Western Australia, noting that impacts may vary in accordance with the location of the activity; use credible scientific and historical evidence to assess the level of risk associated with identified impacts; describe regulatory mechanisms that may be employed to mitigate or minimise risks to an acceptable level, where appropriate; recommend a scientific approach to regulating hydraulic fracture stimulation; and hold community meetings in Perth and the midwest and Kimberley regions.
- (4) It is anticipated the time frame for completion will be less than 12 months.
- (5) No.