

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESERVES

**61. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for the Environment:**

I refer to the Premier's planned announcement on Saturday that the Government intends to reserve the Mitchell River and Lawley River national parks and the Laterite, Camp Creek and King Leopold Ranges conservation parks in the Kimberley, and ask -

- (1) Has the Government conducted any discussions with the traditional landowners, the Wunambal-Gaambera people and the Wanjina Wunggurr-Willingin people, who have native title claims over the area?
- (2) Will the traditional owners be offered a partnership in the management of these parks?
- (3) Has the Government conducted any discussions with the resources and mining industry on the creation of these parks?
- (4) Will mining and exploration activity be allowed or prohibited in any of the new national parks or conservation parks?

**Mrs EDWARDES replied:**

- (1)-(4) Consultation has taken place with the local Aboriginal communities and we welcome them as part of the management of those national parks, as we do in other areas. Those opposite would know from the time they were in government that they had to go through an extensive process before reaching a declaration of the national parks, which includes looking at prospectivity, minerals and exploration. They would also be well aware that no mining occurs in national parks unless both Houses of this Parliament approve it.