

MAGELLAN METALS — ESPERANCE LEAD CONTAMINATION

140. Hon PAUL LLEWELLYN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Commerce:

My question is about Magellan Metals and the lead contamination at Esperance.

- (1) Did the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection conduct an inspection of the Magellan mine site following the first news of evidence that the Esperance community had been contaminated with lead?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is yes, please table the results; if the answer to (1) is no, why not?

Hon BARRY HOUSE replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Commerce I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) Two dangerous goods officers from the department's resources safety division visited the Magellan Metals mine site 35 kilometres south of Wiluna on 20 and 21 June 2007. The key findings included: the site was in care and maintenance mode; the site had strict hygiene procedures in place; the bulk-concentrate storage pad was well-located on the site away from plant work areas; the binder sprayed on to the mounds appeared to be keeping the dust down; and, finally, a number of potential breaches of the dangerous goods regulations were identified and an improvement notice was issued.