

PORTMAN MINING COMPANY — WINDARLING RANGE

5918. Hon Giz Watson to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to the decision of the Minister of the day in overturning the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) advice in bulletin 1082 that mining not be allowed at Windarling Range -

- (1) Did any employee, Director of the Portman Mining Company or individuals representing their interests make any representation to the Minister of the day, the EPA or DEP in respect of the EPA's advice in bulletin 1082?
- (2) If yes to (1), who were those people?
- (3) If yes to (1), what was the nature of that representation?
- (4) Does the Minister, former Minister, DEP/DEC or EPA have any form of correspondence in respect of this matter?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the Minister table that correspondence?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) Yes. Portman Iron Ore Limited lodged an appeal with the Minister for the Environment, in accordance with its right under section 100(i) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, in respect of the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) report.
- (2) Many of the staff of the Minister for the Environment's office, the EPA and the then Department of Environmental Protection (at the time in question, from publication of the EPA Bulletin in December 2002 until approval was given by the Minister in June 2003) are no longer public officers and therefore I cannot confirm all representations. However from the file records available the following people made representations.

Richard Mehan	Portman Iron Ore Limited
Barry Eldridge	Director, Portman Iron Ore Limited
Kristy Hubbard	Portman Iron Ore Limited
Peter Winter	Portman Iron Ore Limited.

The Minister has also been informed that Mr Brian Burke and Mr Julian Grill represented Portman during the period in question.

- (3)-(5) See tabled paper comprising records from the Appeals Convenor's, EPA's and (then) Department of Environmental Protection's files relating to representations from Portman Iron Ore Limited or its representatives. [See paper 3783.]