(4) If not, what action will the Minister take to correct these delays in information being released from the Water and Rivers Commission?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The final analysis of data, editorial work associated quality control, internal approval process within the Commission, printing and distribution took longer than anticipated when the letter dated 18 May, was sent to Mr Fantasia.

(3) I agree that the time to deliver the final report was longer than anticipated. However, data included in the report on soil and groundwater quality at the Warton Road Banjup site was sent to Mr Fantasia as it became available. Mr Fantasia was also informed by telephone of progress of the investigation. Mr Fantasia agreed in late 1997 to liaise with the Water and Rivers Commission on behalf of Banjup residents.

(4) The Water and Rivers Commission has reviewed its process for delivery of technical reports with the aim of minimising the time taken between preparation of the draft report and its final release.

BUSES

Expert Reference Group's Report

142. Hon NORM KELLY to the Minister for Transport:

(1) Who are the members of the expert reference group, established to assess the most appropriate fuel for Perth's bus fleet?

(2) What qualifications do they possess for membership of such a group?

(3) What remuneration will they be paid for work done?

(4) What is the reporting deadline for this group's assessment?

(5) Can the Minister guarantee that after the initial order of 133 buses, there will be no further purchases of buses prior to the reference group's assessment has been presented to the Minister?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

(1)

Mr Brian Bult (Chairman)	Managing Director - Voith Australia Pty Ltd.
Mr Alan Bray	Managing Director - PATH Transit.
Mr John Stanley	Environmental Economist.
Mr Kevin Bishop	Manager Corporate Sales - AlintaGas.
Dr Phillip Morgan	Assistant Director - Air Quality Management - Department of Environmental Protection.
Mr Greg Martin	Executive Director Metropolitan Division-Department of Transport.

(2) Each member of this group is currently occupying senior positions within their respective organisations and all are suitably qualified.

(3) The Chairman, Mr Brian Bult is to be paid $1 000 per month plus 'out of pocket' expenses.

Mr John Stanley is to be paid his normal consulting fee of $1 200 per day plus 'out of pocket' expenses and has provided an estimate of $13 200 for the completion of the work.

Mr Alan Bray, the bus operator representative, is providing his time within his normal duties and will claim 'out of pocket' expenses only.

Three members of the group are Public Servants and as such their expertise is available to this group within their normal duties.

(4) Group is to report monthly with the final report due in December 1998.

(5) Yes.

MINING

Mr Eric Stein

153. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to a letter from the Department of Minerals and Energy dated January 24, 1995 to Mr Eric Stein signed by Mr Hugh Jones, and ask -

(1) Can the Minister state why Mr Stein must comply with what he had stated in his "NOIs and the additional conditions referred to"?

(2) If not, can the Minister explain why not?

(3) Does Mr Stein need to apply for a miscellaneous licence to construct a new access track outside the boundaries of his tenements to satisfy and comply with departmental legislation?

(4) If yes, can the Minister explain why?

(5) If not, can the Minister explain why?

(6) Can the Minister state under the *Mining Act* the "specific section relating to interception of water drainage"?

(7) Can the Minister state why Mr Stein should ensure he does "not affect the rights and privileges that may exist for other persons outside" of his mining tenements?

(8) If not, can the Minister explain why not?

(9) Can the Minister state why "Departmental approval is not required for drilling on" his mining tenements?

(10) If not, can the Minister explain why?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1)-(2) It is a requirement of the Mining Act that all tenement holders comply with the tenement conditions. As stated in the letter referred to, the "mining operations are subject to Notices of Intent referred to in conditions 6 and 9 for the respective leases."

(3)-(5) If the track is solely for access purposes on Crown Land, the Mining Act does not require a miscellaneous licence to be obtained. However, if the track was for the purpose of ore haulage, a miscellaneous licence is required. As was pointed out in the letter referred to in the Member's question, applying for a miscellaneous licence would afford the holder protection against future mining activities by an underlying tenement holder.

(6) Section 85(1)(c).

(7) A holder of a mining lease is permitted to take and divert water subject to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The sentence partially quoted in the Member's question related to the interception of water and the rights and privileges that persons may have to that water.

(8) Not applicable.

(9)-(10) Drilling is considered to be a normal part of mining operations and departmental approval is only required when, as stated in the balance of the sentence quoted in the Member's question, more than one hectare of the tenement would be cleared as part of the drilling operations.

MINING

Gold Exemption Order Requirements

154. Hon TOM HELM to the Minister for Mines:

I refer to a Department of Minerals and Energy facsimile transmission cover sheet addressed to Mr Stephen Watson, DEP from Allan Bradley dated April 11, 1996 titled Kintore Operation M16/16 and M16/215 -

(1) Can the Minister explain why "the operation above does meet the Gold Exemption Order requirements"?

(2) Can the Minister state the Gold Exemption Order requirement and how Mr Steins operations meet these requirements?

(3) If not, can the Minister explain why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

(1)-(2) Based on the information available at the time, the Kintore operation satisfied the conditions specified in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection (Gold Extraction Operations) Exemption Order 1993. For the Member's information, I table a copy of the relevant pages of the Government Gazette, WA, dated 29 January 1993, containing the Exemption Order. [See paper No 254.]

(3) Not applicable.