

MINING - KALTAILS TAILINGS DAM

2174. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to the Kaltails Tailings Dam, the lakeside conservation reserve for the preservation of sandalwood and the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM) environmental scoping document dated 20 January 2006, titled *Fimiston Gold Mine Operations Extension (stage 3) and Mine Closure Planning*, I ask -

- (1) Will the Minister release the full text of the scoping document?
- (2) Is it correct that the operator of the Kaltails facility was issued a works approval to construct the Tailings Dam with a condition which stated that all matter containing saline, alkaline, or cyanide constituents shall be retained within impervious holding facilities such that there is no discernible impairment of surface or underground waters?
  - (a) If no, will the Minister release the full text of the works approval issued to construct the Tailings Dam; and
  - (b) If yes, on what specific date was this works approval condition imposed?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) The scoping document is included as Appendix A of the Public Environmental Review "Fimiston Gold Mine Operations Extension (stage 3) and Mine Closure Planning" (Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mine, September 2006). It was released for public comment on 4 September 2006 for an eight week period until 30 October 2006.
  - (2) The Kaltails Tailings facility has not been actively deposited to for some years, and the records associated with its activity are in archive. The period in question is from almost twenty years ago and I do not support the use of the resources of the Department of Environment and Conservation to locate and retrieve these files. I am advised that there is no evidence to suggest that there are any impacts as a result of this facility, and there are no active investigations into Newmont Kaltails with respect to seepage, and/or impacts relating to the facility.
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