

SPILLAGE-DISCHARGE OF HYPERSALINE SOLUTION ONTO OPTIMUM RESOURCES
TENEMENT — PROSECUTION OF OFFENDER

2957. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to Question on Notice No. 2176, asked on 5 April 2007, I ask:

- (a) can the Minister state who authorised the spillage/discharge of hypersaline solution containing cyanide onto Optimum Resources tenement; and
 - (i) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) will the Department of Environment and Conservation prosecute the alleged offender for breaching the Environmental Protection Act 1986 for causing pollution, and under the Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations Act 2004; and
 - (i) if no to (b), why not?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) No. The incident in question is currently under investigation by the Department of Environment and Conservation. As such I cannot make comment at this time.
- (b) See the answer to (a).