

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF BANDED IRONSTONE FORMATION RANGES — MT MANNING AREA

2906. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to the Strategic Review of the Banded Iron Formation Ranges of the Midwest and Goldfields and the Mount Manning area, I ask:

- (a) will the Minister confirm that no A Class Reserve has been established over the Mount Manning Region, and that it retains its current status of conservation park as indicated on the Department of Industry and Resources website; and
  - (i) if no to (a) why not;
- (b) will the Minister confirm that further investigation/exploration is required to determine the prospectivity of the Die Hardy Ranges as specifically indicated on page 8 in the above referred to report; and
  - (i) if no to (b) why not;
- (c) does the Government recognise the need to balance environment and development in the Mount Manning area; and
  - (i) if yes to (c) how is this demonstrated ; and
  - (ii) if no to (c) why not;
- (d) can the Minister confirm that there are no legal impediments to the continuation of exploration and mining activities under existing granted rights/tenure in the Mount Manning Area; and
  - (i) if yes to (d) what are those impediments;
- (e) will the Minister ensure that further consultation with all stakeholders, particularly with any mining tenement holders in the Mount Manning region, will be undertaken ahead of the amendment of any existing status in the Mount Manning area; and
  - (i) if no to (e) why not; and
- (f) will the conversion of the area in the Mount Manning region to an A Class Reserve at any time in the future require the approval of both houses of the Western Australian Parliament?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) I confirm that the current land tenure is accurately reflected on the Department of Industry and Resources Tenograph website. No class A reserves exist at present in the Mount Manning area.
- (b) The Government has committed to the creation of a class A nature reserve or national park over the Die Hardy Range, notwithstanding the potential prospectivity of the Ranges.
- (c) Yes, the policy framework endorsed by the Government provides a balanced and constructive approach to conservation and resource development of BIF ranges in the Yilgarn and Midwest.
  - (i) In the case of the Die Hardy Range, the Government has recognised the very high conservation values of the Range and indicated a predisposition against development of this Range. For some other ranges with high biodiversity conservation values the Government has indicated a predisposition towards development.
- (d) The policy framework endorsed by the Government does not pre-empt due process, including assessment of projects in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The policy framework provides an indication of the Government's pre-disposition of specific BIF ranges in the Yilgarn and Midwest.
- (e) As part of the boundary determination process it is expected that the Department of Industry and Resources will consult with affected tenement holders.
- (f) There is no requirement under the Land Administration Act 1997 for Parliament to approve the creation of class A reserves. Reserves are created by order of the Minister responsible for administering the Land Administration Act, under section 41 of that Act. The Minister may classify a reserve as class A under section 42(1) of the Act. Parliament becomes involved where there is a proposal to significantly alter the boundaries of an area that has been declared to be a reserve of class A.