

MINING - OPTIMUM RESOURCES

2176. Mr M.J. Birney to the Minister for the Environment

With reference to an unauthorised spillage/discharge of hypersaline solution containing cyanide onto Optimum Resources tenement near Kalgoorlie, first identified on Saturday morning 25 February 2006 and later reported to the Department of Environment, I ask -

- (1) Can the Minister state who authorized this spillage/discharge of hypersaline solution containing cyanide onto Optimum Resources tenement?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (2) Will the Department of Environment and Conservation prosecute the alleged offender for breaching the *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations Act 2004*?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (1) The incident in question is currently under investigation by the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- (2) Enforcement action will depend on the results of the investigation and will be made in line with DEC's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy.