

PREMIER COAL MINE, COLLIE — AIRBORNE DUST

1970. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* and reporting requirements by Yancoal Australia Group's Premier Coal mine in Collie, and ask, in the last six months:

- (a) what sample tests on air borne dust have been taken near the Premier mine site and the frequency of such tests;
- (b) what sample tests on air borne dust have been taken near the Collie town site and the frequency of such tests;
- (c) have all dust samples been under recommended Australian guide lines;
- (d) who is testing the water quality on behalf of Yancoal; and
- (e) has dust sampling confirmed that dust from local coal mines has reached Collie town site?

Mr W.R. Marmion replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a)–(e) Under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* Yancoal is required to monitor the potential exposure of employees to dust and other atmospheric contaminants within the Premier Coal mine site. During the last 6 months, 11 personal occupational air monitoring samples were submitted to the Department of Mines and Petroleum by Yancoal Premier Mine as a requirement of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*. 9 samples were for respirable dust plus crystalline silica and 2 samples were for welding fumes. None of the samples taken reached or exceeded the occupational exposure standard.

Any environmental water quality monitoring undertaken by Yancoal could be a licencing requirement under *Part V of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*, which is administered by the Department of Environmental Regulation.

Any environmental air borne dust monitoring near the Premier mine site or the Collie town site is also likely to fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Regulation.

It is recommended that these questions be directed to the Minister for Environment.