

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS SYSTEM, COMMITTEE REVIEW

475. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development
- (1) Who approached the Minister for State Development to initiate the Committee Review of the Project Development Approvals System?
 - (2) Who in the Department is facilitating this process?
 - (3) What organisations were invited to apply for a seat on the Review Committee?
 - (4) Who was selected to sit on the Review Committee and what organisations do they represent?
 - (5) What organisations did the Review Committee ask to make input into its 2001 Discussion Paper which closed for comment on October 31 2001?
 - (6) How did the Committee advertise for public comment on this Discussion Paper?
 - (7) Will the Minister detail the newspapers where advertisements appeared?
 - (8) How did the Committee advertise for public comment to its January/February 2002 Discussion Paper?
 - (9) Will the Minister detail the newspapers where advertisements appeared?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I am advised:

- (1) The Minister for State Development announced his intention to commission an independent committee to review the project development approvals system in a speech entitled 'Building WA – A Strategic Partnership' made on 4 September 2001 and published on the Minister's website at www.ministers.wa.gov.au/brown. In that speech the Minister stated that in Opposition he and his Parliamentary colleagues received constant complaints from industry about the length, complexity and uncertainty of the approvals process.
- (2) The review committee has been assisted in its work by a dedicated secretariat comprising a number of senior public servants from appropriate government agencies. Advice and assistance from relevant departments have been provided where sought. The Review is operating outside the Department of Minerals and Petroleum Resources and is reporting directly to the Minister.
- (3)-(4) The Review is being conducted by a specially appointed Review Committee.
The members have been appointed by the Minister as individuals, not as representatives of particular organisations. The following persons are on the Review Committee:
The Committee is chaired by former senior Commonwealth public servant Dr Michael Keating AC. Members of the committee are:
 - Mr Ian Burston, Managing Director, Portman Mining Ltd, a person with substantial experience in exploration and/or project development who provided input from the mining industry point of view;
 - Mr William Grace, of Taywood Engineering, (now part of Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd) a person with substantial experience in industry supporting major developments in Western Australia;
 - Dr Sue Graham-Taylor, A member of the Conservation Council who has provided input from the conservation movement point of view;
 - Ms Eve Howell, Deputy Managing Director and Exploration/Business Development Manager, Apache Energy Ltd, a person with substantial experience in exploration and/or project development who provided input from the petroleum industry point of view; and
 - Mr Brian Wyatt, Director, Goldfields Land Council and Chairman WA Aboriginal Native Title Working Group, a person able to provide input from an indigenous interests viewpoint
- (5) There was no discussion paper released by the Review Committee in 2001. However it did invite public comment in response to its establishment and terms of reference. A copy of its terms of reference was published electronically on 21 September 2001 at www.ministers.wa.gov.au/brown. In addition, an advertisement was published as detailed in paragraph 6 below. As well as the public request for submissions, the Review Committee also targeted a range of organisations within the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, industry groups, and community groups and indigenous organisations which the Committee considered would be likely to have a particular interest in the work of the Review. [A list of those persons is attached]

- (6)-(7) An advertisement was published in the 'West Australian' on Saturday 22 September 2001 inviting public comment on the Review's establishment and terms of reference; An electronic copy of the terms of reference was published on the Minister's website on Friday 21 September 2001.
- (8)-(9) An Interim Report for Comment was released by the Review Committee on Thursday 17 January 2002. A media statement was also released by the Review Committee chair on the same day. Printed copies of the Interim Report were posted to each person or group that made a submission to the Review in response to its advertisement on 22 September 2001, plus anyone who was written to at the time of the earlier call for public comment and did not respond. Further copies of the Report were sent out in response to any requests for copies. An advertisement was published in the 'West Australian' on Saturday 19 January 2002 inviting further public comment on the Review's Interim Report. An electronic copy of the Interim Report was published on the Minister's website on Thursday 17 January 2002.

(A list of those persons and organisations is attached) [See tabled paper No 1362.]