

SIR SAMUEL MINES NL

198. Hon GIZ WATSON to the minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

Sir Samuel Mines NL has advised Aboriginal interests in the goldfields that it has applied under section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act for approval to discharge ground water from the mine dewatering operations at the Cosmos nickel mine into Lake Miranda, situated to the north of Leinster.

- (1) Has that application under section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act been approved?
- (2) If so, when was it approved?
- (3) Has the minister's decision been consistent with advice received about the importance of Lake Miranda?
- (4) Were all the relevant claimant groups involved in the process prior to approval being given?
- (5) Have all the relevant claimant groups supported approval being given?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The letter of consent signed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was forwarded to the company on 21 August 2000.
- (3) In accordance with section 18(3) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, and following consideration of the recommendations of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee, and in the interests of the general community, the minister took the importance of Lake Miranda into account.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No.
- (6) The minister is unable to comment on behalf of the claimant groups.