

**KALGOORLIE CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES PTY LTD — FIMISTON STAGE 3 EXPANSION AND
SITING OF WASTE DUMPS CLOSER TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

5966. Hon Paul Llewellyn to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to question on notice No. 3206 of 1 December 2005, the proposal by Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd (KCGM) Fimiston stage 3 expansion, on behalf of Newmont Mining and Barrick Gold, various mullock waste dumps proposed closer to Boulder and the two northern waste dumps proposed which will bring the mining operations along with the noise, dust and vibrations closer to Williamstown, other parts of Kalgoorlie and the Ninga Mia Aboriginal community, and I ask —

- (1) Can the Minister indicate what are the specific noise levels and the amount that will be exceeded from the current assigned levels during both the day and night time as a result of bringing the two northern waste dumps closer to Williamstown, other parts of Kalgoorlie and the Ninga Mia Aboriginal community?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Given the answer provided for parts 3 and 4 for question on notice No. 3206 where the Minister has stated ‘No, I would not expect the public to tolerate noise, dust and vibration levels above the standards as set by legislation’, to reduce the overall long term impact of noise on the wider community for the entire life of the mining operations and to provide for orderly development of the Super pit operations, will the Minister reject the two northern waste dumps proposed by KCGM with respect to the noise regulation 17 application (to increase noise levels) as being environmentally unacceptable and suggest or invite the proponent to look at alternatives, including placing the mullock material for these waste dumps to the South and East of their mining operations by either diverting the surface drainage channel or using large concrete culverts, just as is done in other open pit mining operations, in order that waste material can be deposited to the South and East of the mining operations further away from residences and the community?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) To reduce the overall long term impact of noise on the wider community for the life of the operations and to provide for orderly development of the Super Pit operations, will the Minister reject parts of the waste dumps proposed by KCGM in the areas closer to the community near the environmental noise bund in Boulder, as part of the noise regulation 17 application to increase noise levels as a means to ensure that all residents living closest to the mining operations in Boulder are protected, and afforded a reasonable level of noise during the evenings for the entire life of the mining operations, and are also protected from closer increased dust emissions?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

- (1) The predicted noise levels in Williamstown, at the Ninga Mia Aboriginal community and in the nearest areas of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, resulting from the operation of the existing and proposed KCGM Fimiston pit and waste dumps would range from 49 to 55 dB(A) under worst case weather conditions.

These levels are based on data in the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) Bulletin 1274. They would represent a maximum exceedance over the LA10 assigned noise levels in the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 by 2-5 dB in the daytime, and 12-15 dB at night. The predicted noise levels are similar to the existing noise levels in these areas.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The EPA's report on the proposed Fimiston Gold Mine Operations Extension (Stage 3) and Mine Closure Planning, which includes the northern waste dumps, is currently under appeal. The Minister is awaiting the Appeals Convenor's advice before making any decision on the environmental acceptability of the waste dumps.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) See the answer to (3).
- (6) Not applicable.