

MINES AND PETROLEUM — PALADIN ENERGY LTD

3372. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:
- (1) What is the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australia in relation to interim working arrangements for the regulation of mineral exploration activities by Paladin Energy Ltd within the Yampi Sound Training Area in Western Australia?
 - (2) If the MoU is no longer valid:
 - (a) on what date did the MoU become redundant;
 - (b) is there any discussion on drafting a new MoU;
 - (c) has Paladin Energy Ltd ceased any exploration work in the area; and
 - (d) on what date did Paladin Energy Ltd officially conclude their work in the Yampi Sound Training Area?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (1) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Western Australia in relation to interim working arrangements for the regulation of mineral exploration activities by Paladin Energy Ltd within the Yampi Sound Training Area in Western Australia was signed in January 2012 and valid for two years.
- (2)
 - (a) The above MoU was effectively superseded by the Western Australian Mining Amendment Bill 2012 which was assented to on 29 November 2012.
 - (b) No
 - (c) Paladin Energy Ltd has not been granted an Exploration Licence in the Yampi Sound Training Area. As such, no exploration activity has been conducted by Paladin Energy Ltd in the area.
 - (d) See response to (c).