

BHP — IRON ORE ROYALTY PAYMENTS

400. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

This question was originally to the Treasurer but I believe it has been redirected to the Premier. It is C425.

I refer to the article titled “No Budget boost from BHP” in *The Weekend West* dated 4 May this year.

- (1) Can the Premier confirm that talks have not been able to proceed with BHP about unpaid royalties, and negotiations remain at an impasse?
- (2) Will the Premier table a list of meeting dates and correspondence that have taken place so far between the relevant ministries and BHP regarding royalties owed?
- (3) Will the government follow the precedent set with the Perth Children’s Hospital case and reserve funds to pursue legal action against BHP?
- (4) Considering that John Holland is pursuing \$300 million in damages, and BHP owes the state \$300 million in royalties—apparently—would it be expected that an amount similar to the \$5 million in the war chest fund would be reserved for any potential litigation with BHP?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

At this time, it is not appropriate to comment on these matters, as they are currently being considered by the State Solicitor’s Office.