

MINES AND PETROLEUM — DEPLETED URANIUM USE IN GAS EXTRACTION

3308. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to depleted uranium charges being used to perforate the casing and cement of horizontal wells during the extraction of unconventional gas, and ask:

- (a) are workers being made aware that they are handling depleted uranium;
- (b) if yes to (a), how are they being made aware;
- (c) if no to (a), why not;
- (d) please provide details of what health and safety measures are being taken;
- (e) if none to (d), why not;
- (f) in the event that depleted uranium explosives are being used, are workers being made aware that the waste water contains depleted uranium;
- (g) if yes to (f), how;
- (h) if no to (f), why not;
- (i) are there signs warning people about radioactive waste near produced water holding ponds; and
- (j) if no to (i), why not?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

- (a) No
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) Depleted uranium charges are not being used to perforate casing and cement in Western Australia.
- (d) Not applicable
- (e) Refer to (c)
- (f) Refer to (c)
- (g) Not applicable
- (h) Refer to (c)
- (i) No
- (j) Refer to (c)