

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND PETROLEUM — CHRISTMAS CREEK FATALITY

518. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the recent tragic death of a worker at Christmas Creek mine.

- (1) Has the Department of Mines and Petroleum commenced an investigation into the death; and, if so, when is the investigation likely to be completed?
- (2) How many mine safety inspectors did the DMP employ in 2012–13?
- (3) How many mine safety inspector positions are vacant as at today's date?
- (4) How many mine safety inspectors does the department intend to employ in —
 - (a) 2013–2014; and
 - (b) 2014–2015?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. The investigation commenced on 15 August 2013 and is expected to be completed within six months. Should the investigation support a prosecution, advice will then be sought from the State Solicitor.
- (2) Sixty-six.
- (3) Five positions are currently vacant.
- (4)
 - (a) An additional five inspectors will be recruited in 2013–14 to achieve 72 inspectors.
 - (b) Seventy-two.