

CENTRAL PETROLEUM LIMITED — EXPLORATION PERMITS

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

With reference to Central Petroleum Limited Exploration Permits 16/08-9 EP, 17/08-9 EP and 18/08-9 EP:

- (a) what is the status of these applications;
- (b) is it correct that, if granted, Central Petroleum Limited will be exploring these leases for unconventional Lower Larapinta (shale) gas/oil;
- (c) if yes to (a) and/or (b), has the Environmental Protection Authority been advised of these activities; and
- (d) if yes to (a) and/or (b), have the Native Title parties been advised of these activities?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a) These applications for petroleum exploration permits are currently undergoing native title negotiations, subject to the rights to negotiate process under the *Native Title Act 1993* (the Act).
- (b) A petroleum exploration permit enables the permit holder to apply to the Department of Mines and Petroleum for approval to undertake exploration activities for all types of petroleum. As the permits are yet to be granted, Central Petroleum Limited has not yet submitted details of their planned exploration to the Department of Mines and Petroleum for approval.
- (c) At this early stage of the application process, referral to the Environmental Protection Agency is not applicable.
- (d) The Native Title parties have been notified pursuant to Section 29(2) of the Act and the Department of Mines and Petroleum will continue to follow the negotiation procedure outlined in the Act. Note that at this time there are no petroleum exploration activities on the application areas.