

MINES — ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION REFORM

392. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to conversations and questions asked during the estimates hearings on Wednesday, 6 June 2012 in relation to bonds. On 8 May the minister announced the government's intentions to "reform environmental regulation" when it is administered under the Mining Act. This reform process and the proposed regulatory system clearly require a significant increase in resources. There were, however, apparently no new resources in the state budget to implement the reforms.

- (1) How and when will the government's reform of environmental regulation program be funded?
- (2) I note the government intends to introduce distinct legislation to establish the fidelity fund to deal with mine legacy issues. Will this legislation also contain specific criminal offences for mine abandonment resulting in noncompliance with mine closure plans?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I answer on behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. After all of that, I sincerely regret to inform the member that I do not have an answer for him, and I do not believe the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum has an answer either, but if one becomes available by the end of question time, we shall give it to the member.