

BANDED IRONSTONE FORMATION RANGES — CONSERVATION VALUE

653. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Premier

- (1) Does the Premier acknowledge the biodiversity conservation values of the Banded Ironstone Formation ranges?
- (2) Does the Premier recognise that Banded Ironstone Formation ranges, including Blue Hills, Mungada Ridge and Mt Karara, are a critical part of Western Australia's natural heritage?
- (3) Does the Premier acknowledge that the areas mentioned above are completely unprotected from mining and exploration activities?
- (4) Does the Premier accept the major findings of the *Strategic Review of the Conservation and Resource Values of the Banded Iron Formation (BIF) of the Yilgarn Craton* produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Industry and Resources?
- (5) What action has been taken to implement the major findings presented in *Strategic Review of the Conservation and Resource Values of the Banded Iron Formation (BIF) of the Yilgarn Craton* produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Industry and Resources?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1) I understand that there is a broad range of biodiversity conservation values across different BIF ranges.
- (2) It is my understanding that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) previously identified these areas as having conservation value.
- (3) Applications for Exploration and Mining Tenements require compliance with a number of conditions including those relating to flora and fauna surveys, clearing of native vegetation and rehabilitation.
- (4) The Strategic Review is now dated due to new information on both conservation values and mineralisation from ongoing surveys and exploration activities, but that it retains some value as a guide to decision making.
- (5) As indicated in Answer (4) since the finalisation of the review, significant new information is available as a result of exploration and surveys conducted in the region and the DEC and the Department of Mines and Petroleum are assessing this information.