

KURRA VILLAGE — NEWMAN — WORKERS' CAMP RENEWAL

1308. Hon STEPHEN DAWSON to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the lease renewal of the BHP Billiton Kurra Village workers' accommodation camp.

- (1) What is the government's position in relation to the extension of the proposed lease renewal?
- (2) On what date did BHP Billiton originally submit the lease renewal request to the Minister for Lands for approval?
- (3) On what date was advice provided to BHP Billiton from the minister in response to the lease renewal request?
- (4) Has the minister sought advice from the State Solicitor's Office to clarify whether the state has a statutory obligation to sign the lease; and, if yes, on what date was the advice sought?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the minister table a copy of the advice; and, if not, why not?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(3) BHP Billiton submitted a request for the lease renewal to the Department of Lands on 17 December 2013. Subsequently, on 15 September 2014, BHP Billiton advised the Department of Lands that it was going to submit a proposal to the Minister for State Development under the Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement for the lease renewal. The Minister for Lands did not respond to BHP Billiton's initial request because the request was withdrawn. The Minister for State Development has formally accepted BHP Billiton's proposal and requested that the Minister for Lands execute the relevant lease documents. To date the lease has not been executed.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The advice will not be tabled, as it is subject to legal professional privilege.