

SALT MINING — STATE AGREEMENTS

556. Hon JACQUI BOYDELL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the five state agreements that currently exist for salt mining in Western Australia.

- (1) What royalty rate do the holders of these five state agreements pay?
- (2) Will the state government enter into state agreements for all new salt mines?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) What royalty rate will new entrants pay?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Each state agreement outlines three tiers of royalty rate depending on the volume of salt production and is indexed every seven years to the sale price of salt achieved by the company. The current royalty rate ranges between 14c to 50c per tonne.
- (2)–(3) The decision on whether a state agreement is required and the matters to be covered by such an agreement is made on a case-by-case basis, considering the circumstances of the project at the time.
- (4) The Mining Regulations 1981 specify the current royalty rate for salt production.