

REWARD MINERALS LTD — WESTERN DESERT LANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

916. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to a 3 September article in *The Age* headed “Land council boss gets a PM’s wage but tells Martu people no money left for them” and to the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations’ “Notice under section 487–10(1) of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006”.

- (1) Will the minister now instigate a review of the validity of the negotiations that occurred with Reward Minerals Ltd given that there were clear external fiscal conflicts of interest by the chief financial officer of Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, the lead negotiator on behalf of the Martu, and the former chief executive officer of WDLAC with Reward Minerals Ltd?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises —

- (1) No.
- (2) Mining tenure in which Reward Minerals Ltd has an interest was subject to the statutory obligation to enter into negotiations under the commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 and proper procedures set out under this legislation have been carried out.