

COMMONWEALTH SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2014 — COMCARE LICENSEES

867. Hon KATE DOUST to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the commonwealth Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 that was read into the Parliament of Australia on 19 March 2014. What steps will the Western Australian government take to make sure that state-based specialist safety knowledge, and health and safety monitoring in the mining industry is retained in workplaces of Comcare licensees?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises that Western Australia has a large and diverse mining industry that is regulated under the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994. Some contractors operating on Western Australian mine sites are Comcare licensees and fall under the commonwealth jurisdiction, but the mine sites themselves remain under the jurisdiction of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act. This being the case, the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum inspects, and will continue to inspect, the workplaces on such mine sites. The Western Australian government has actively promoted and implemented changes in the Department of Mines and Petroleum's regulatory safety and health expertise in recent years through its reform and development at resources safety initiative, or RADARS.