

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT — URANIUM MINES

1859. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OPEA) and ask how long has the OEPA been assessing Kintyre, Yeelirrie and Lake Maitland uranium proposals and when are they expected to be completed?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

The development of an environmental review document for a uranium mine involves a significant body of work and will depend on a number of factors including the length of time required to gather appropriate baseline information on items such as radiation, air quality, flora and fauna, geology and hydrology.

Kintyre

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) set the level of assessment for the Kintyre Uranium proposal on 15 September 2010. The Environmental Review Management Programme was released for public comment for 14 weeks from 8 November 2013 to 14 February 2014. The EPA will appropriately consider and assess environmental impacts and provide its report and recommendations to the Minister for Environment.

Yeelirrie

The EPA set the level of assessment for the Yeelirrie Uranium proposal on 10 June 2009. The proponent is currently still undertaking studies to inform the Environmental Review Management Programme which will be subject to a 14 week public review period. The EPA will appropriately consider and assess environmental impacts and provide its report and recommendations to the Minister for Environment.

Lake Maitland

The level of assessment for the Lake Maitland uranium proposal was set on 25 November 2009. The proposal was terminated on 20 February 2014. A new referral that includes the Lake Maitland deposit was submitted to the EPA on 21 February 2014. The EPA is yet to decide on the level of assessment for the new proposal.