

MINE SITES — ON-SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

I refer to the recent increase in the number of fatalities on Western Australian mining sites.

- (1) Has the Minister for Mines and Petroleum or his department had any discussions since January 2013 with mining sector companies regarding the need to improve on-site health and safety?
- (2) If yes to (1) —
 - (a) which companies did the minister or his department have the discussions with;
 - (b) when did each discussion take place; and
 - (c) what was the outcome of each discussion?
- (3) 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 the following —

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) The Department of Mines and Petroleum undertakes inspections and discussions with all companies regulated under the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum had discussions with Fortescue Metals Group, Newcrest, and Norseman Gold.
 - (b) The Department of Mines and Petroleum undertakes inspections and discussion with industry on a daily basis. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum had discussions with Fortescue Metals Group in August and December 2013, Newcrest in December 2013 and Norseman Gold in February 2014.
 - (c) The Department of Mines and Petroleum’s discussions are specific to each site and company. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum’s discussion reiterated the importance of a “safety first” culture on all mine sites, and reaffirmed the importance of continuing cooperation with the Department of Mines and Petroleum to ensure safety performance.
- (3) Not applicable.