

LD OPERATIONS — PROPOSED COALMINE

638. Hon ADELE FARINA to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's statements earlier today about the proposed coalmine in Margaret River and his decision that the proposed coalmine be permitted to progress through the usual approval processes. In view of the resources and assistance provided by government to the mining company through the Department of State Development, which assists and provides advice to the mining company throughout the various approval processes, will the Premier agree to establish a social impact unit in the EPA and to adequately fund the unit to provide the same level of resources, advice and assistance to the community of Margaret River as the Department of State Development provides to the mining company?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. I reply on behalf of the Leader of the House. This answer has been provided by the Minister for State Development and Premier. The Department of State Development provides assistance to proponents to progress through the normal government approvals processes for projects for which it is the designated lead agency. Social impact assessment matters associated with specific proposals are considered as appropriate during the environmental impact assessment process or as part of a broader set of considerations in instances in which the state is the project proponent. Individual proponents are also expected to carry out social impact assessments as part of their planning processes prior to project approval.

Hon Adele Farina: So the answer is no.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: The answer is what I have just given.