

WILUNA URANIUM PROPOSAL — LAKE WAY AND LAKE MAITLAND SALINA SYSTEMS

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

I refer to question C376. Recent rainfall events, with decadal or longer return periods, are currently filling the salina systems of Lake Way and Lake Maitland associated with the Wiluna uranium proposal, with conditional approval, and the Wiluna extension in the public environmental review preparation stage.

- (1) Given that the timely occurrence of these events has provided a unique opportunity to understand how these systems operate, will studies to measure the latent productivity and detection of endemic aquatic macroinvertebrates be undertaken?
- (2) Will the proponents now prepare defensible hydrodynamic and geochemical models for these salina systems and an accurate characterisation of their biodiversity values?
- (3) Are the necessary environmental studies of the flooded systems currently underway?
- (4) If no to (1), (2) or (3), why not?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, I advise —

- (1)–(4) The environmental scoping document for the extension to the Wiluna uranium project was approved by the Environmental Protection Authority on 18 February 2015. There is a requirement in the ESD for Toro Energy to complete the following environmental and hydrological studies: surface water, hydrological and flood studies in relation to mining at Millipede, Centipede, Lake Maitland and Lake Way; hydrological studies and laboratory testing to estimate the frequency, magnitude and duration of flooding events that may affect the project area during or following the active life of the mine; and an external review of all hydrological studies. Studies including a baseline aquatic ecology, project distribution of a new genus of ostracod and an aquatic assessment at Lake Maitland have been completed.