

WILUNA URANIUM PROPOSAL — FLOODING

3209. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to rainfall events in late March which filled the salina systems of Lake Way and Lake Maitland associated with the Wiluna uranium proposal, and ask:

- (a) was the Minister aware of the flooding of Lake Way where the Wiluna uranium site was proposed;
- (b) was the Minister aware that the proponent Toro Energy plans to store radioactive mine waste tailings in an area now inundated with water;
- (c) given that the company completed a test pit at the Centipede site in 2011, has or will the Minister require a review of the site to assess if damage was done, or if radiation was released into the environment post-flooding; and
- (d) given that a motion through parliament was supported to effectively isolate uranium tailings from the environment for no less than 10 000 years, does the Minister consider tailings in a mine pit on a lake bed that was submerged due to flooding can meet this requirement?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a)–(d) Please refer to Question on Notice 2999.