

PLUTON RESOURCE LTD — IRVINE ISLAND

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

I refer to Pluton Resource Ltd activities on Irvine Island and Flora Island and licence P04/267.

- (1) Is the minister or his department aware that the Mayala native title group has opposed the application for licence P04/267?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), what action is the department taking to ensure that the concerns of the Mayala native title group are taken into account?
- (4) Has the Department of Mines and Petroleum received any correspondence about this matter from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the minister table that correspondence?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Is the minister aware of any drilling programs proposed for the cultural heritage protected area on Irvine Island?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises as follows.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The matter is currently with the National Native Title Tribunal under the section 29 expedited process of the commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) No. However, I am aware that the Department of Mines and Petroleum has received two proposals, both of which have been withdrawn by the applicant.