

JACK HILLS — MINE EXPANSION

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

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Jack Hills area has been granted interim listing status on the Register of the National Estate as it contains the oldest geological formations found anywhere on planet Earth?
- (2) Will the minister ensure that the recent expansion of the Jack Hills mine does not cause any disturbance to these ancient formations, such that it would make future geological research impossible?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) If yes to (2), what will those measures be?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Yes. This interim listing—place ID 18283—within the Register of the National Estate is dated 28 October 2003.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Jack Hills mine expansion project is an existing iron ore mine owned by Crosslands Resources Ltd, located approximately 380 kilometres north east of Geraldton. The Jack Hills area that hosts the old zircons is not part of the mine expansion project that shares the same name; it is located about 25 kilometres to the west-south-west of the Jack Hills mine. Exploration activities around the geoheritage site are being closely managed to ensure that the geoscientific values are not detrimentally affected. The specific Jack Hills area with geoscientific values is also on the Western Australian register of geoheritage sites.