

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING SITES — ON-SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY

**400. Hon KATE DOUST to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the recent increase in fatalities on Western Australian mining sites.

- (1) Has the minister or his office consulted with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy regarding the need to improve on-site health and safety?
- (2) If yes to (1), what was the outcome of these discussions?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1)–(2) The Minister for Mines and Petroleum and his office liaise regularly with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, particularly on the common goal of ensuring on-site health and safety. The Chamber of Minerals and Energy is a strong contributor to safety advice and reform processes in the mines and petroleum portfolio. These efforts and relationships are longstanding and include ongoing consultation on the reform and development in the resources safety program, such as representation on the ministerial advisory panel on implementing best practice safety legislation, which commenced in 2010; the ministerial advisory panel on safety legislation reform, which commenced in January 2014; and the Mining Industry Advisory Committee, established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. Please note that the fatality frequency rate is at historic lows, with 2012 the first fatality-free year since records began in 1896. However, any fatality is a tragedy and the industry continues to work to reduce the frequency of such events across the board.
- (3) Not applicable.