

GRAIN RAIL NETWORK — TIER 3 LINES

356. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the current maximum speeds allowed on tier 3 rail lines in the grain network?
- (2) Is the minister aware of concerns that speed restrictions will be introduced on the tier 3 lines next year if no work is carried out this year?
- (3) Has the minister spoken to the operator of these lines about the concerns?
- (4) If yes, what was the outcome of the discussions?
- (5) If no, will the minister agree to discuss the concerns with the operator of these lines and advise the house of the outcome?
- (6) Can the minister guarantee that new speed restrictions will not be introduced on any of the tier 3 lines next year?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The current maximum speeds allowed on tier 3 rail lines in the grain network range from 30 kilometres an hour empty and 30 kilometres an hour loaded on the Quairading–York and Trayning–west Merredin lines to 60 kilometres an hour empty and 50 kilometres an hour loaded on the Narrogin–Yilliminning line.
- (2)–(6) Yes. Discussions between the Public Transport Authority, as holder of the lease on behalf of the government, CBH and WestNet regarding the tier 3 lines are continuing.

GIDJI ROASTER MERCURY MINE

2. Hon JON FORD to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the Gidji roaster mercury mine operations.

- (1) Has the minister been made aware of any complaints or concerns regarding unexplained health problems as well as unexplained dead wildlife near the operations?
- (2) If yes to (1), what concerns have been brought to the minister's attention and what mitigation/monitoring measures have been put in place?
- (3) What action is the minister taking to make sure that this mining operation does not have any detrimental effect on the local environment?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

- (1)–(2) I understand that the honourable member is referring to the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Gidji roaster. I have been advised by the Department of Environment and Conservation that it has not received any complaints about these issues.
- (3) I have been advised by DEC that the Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Gidji roaster is currently a licensed premises under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The licence includes conditions to prevent or minimise the impact the operation has on the environment, including air pollution control measures, such as stack testing for point source emissions, and the monitoring of vegetation.

Licence conditions are also in place to ensure that the operations do not cause or contribute to sulfur dioxide concentrations in ambient air exceeding levels set out in the Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulfur Dioxide) Policy 2003 within the residential areas of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, Kurrawang, Coolgardie and Kambalda. KCGM may be required to restrict or shut down the roaster under certain weather conditions and prevailing winds to achieve these conditions. Licence conditions are also in place to ensure that stack emissions of particulates and certain metals such as arsenic and its compounds are not emitted beyond acceptable levels. KCGM is required to report monthly, quarterly and annually for various parameters such as sulfur dioxide. In addition, KCGM is required to report within 24 hours when levels are above reporting trigger levels through the permanent and continuous monitoring of air quality in 10 locations around the Kalgoorlie–Boulder region. If the levels have exceeded ambient levels that do not comply with licence conditions that reflect the Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulfur Dioxide) Policy 2003, the Department of Environment and Conservation investigates these incidents in accordance with its Enforcement and Prosecution Policy 2008. DEC also has a 24-hour pollution response and complaints line in Kalgoorlie and responds to any complaints it receives accordingly.

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Hon Ken Travers; Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Jon Ford; Hon Donna Faragher
