

WORKPLACE SAFETY — AREA C, PILBARA

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

I refer to the photos and video of a Caterpillar D8T Dozer from WesTrac and Caterpillar 336DL Hydraulic Excavator hired from PHS Pty Ltd in Area C in the Pilbara on the South Flank site on or around 15/16 of April 2011. The photos are located at <http://www.robinchapple.com/qdata> (titled: South Flank 1, South Flank 2, South Flank 3, South Flank 4) and the accompanying video at <http://youtu.be/fx7w9BAckj4>, and ask:

- (a) does the Minister consider that using a chain on the 336DL Hydraulic Excavator bucket assembly to attach to the Caterpillar D8T Dozer ripper for lifting purposes, whilst workers were carrying out work on the ripper structure, a safe practice:
  - (i) if yes to (a), why; and
  - (ii) if no to (a), what will the Minister do to investigate this matter;
- (b) was this matter of unsafe practice brought to the attention of the department:
  - (i) if yes to (b), when and by whom;
  - (ii) if yes to (b), what action was taken; and
  - (iii) if no to (b), why was this matter not brought to the attention of the department; and
- (c) was a site supervisor on site at the time:
  - (i) if yes to (c), was the unsafe practice brought to the attention of that officer; and
  - (ii) if yes to either (c) or (c)(i), why did the site supervisor allow this unsafe practice to continue?

**Hon Ken Baston replied:**

- (a) Yes
  - (i) The use of an excavator to lift accessories associated with the equipment is considered normal practice under Australian Standard 1418.8 — 2008 Clause 5.1.
  - (ii) Not applicable
- (b) No
  - (i)–(ii) Not applicable
  - (iii) There is no legislative requirement to report this activity under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*.
- (c) Yes
  - (i) The supervisor was aware of the use of the procedures depicted.
  - (ii) The supervisor was satisfied that the necessary job planning was undertaken and appropriate controls were put in place to manage hazards associated with the activity.

These included:

- Verification of equipment manufacturer specifications including safe working load details, the fitting of hydraulic check valves to support lifting activities and the ratings of lifting points/lugs used to support the load.
- Verification that the chains used to support the raised dozer ripper arm were appropriately rated for the lift.
- Provision of appropriate supervision.
- Preparation and completion of a job hazard assessment that detailed the sequence of tasks required to perform the lift and recovery of the dozer.