

BHP BILLITON PILBARA OPERATIONS — ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

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

I refer to the answer to question without notice 779.

- (1) Will the minister table a copy of the Department of Mines and Petroleum's fibrous mineral management guidelines; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Will the minister table the asbestos management plan provided to the department by BHP Billiton; and, if not, why not?
- (3) In reference to the answer to part (3) of the question, how many times has asbestos been encountered in a BHP Billiton mining operation in the Pilbara?
- (4) In reference to part (4) of the question, will the minister table the most recent monitoring results submitted to the department by BHP Billiton; and, if not, why not?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) The department's "Management of fibrous minerals in Western Australian mining operations" guideline is publicly available on the Department of Mines and Petroleum website.
- (2) Such information would be obtained by the Department of Mines and Petroleum using the compulsion powers of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994. I am advised that when such information is obtained for a particular purpose under a statute, there is a duty on the person who obtains that information in the exercise of the power not to disclose such information except for the intended purpose. I am further advised that because the intellectual property rights to such documentation are retained by the mine operator, it would be more appropriate for the member to contact the mines directly to determine what information they are prepared to provide.
- (3) Asbestiform minerals are widely distributed in Western Australia and can be encountered at various times during mining operations.
- (4) See (2).