

MUNGADA RIDGE — NATURE RESERVE

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

I refer to the undertaking by the Minister for Environment, as stated in Environmental Protection Authority report 1321 of April 2009, that “the Government will set aside the Mungada Ridge as a Class A Nature Reserve and statutorily protect that reserve from development.”

- (1) Have the Gindalbie and Ansteel joint venture partners relinquished the tenements covering Mungada Ridge, as agreed with the state government and as reported in the Australian Securities Exchange announcement dated 28 April 2009?
- (2) If no to (1), why not; and when is this expected to occur?
- (3) Are the joint venture partners now seeking to have the minister’s decision on protection for Mungada Ridge reversed, following the approval of its operations at Karara, Blue Hills North and Terapod?
- (4) If yes to (1), does the minister intend to consider such a retrospective request, against the advice of the EPA?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The normal process is that the relinquishment of tenements would occur simultaneously with the creation of a reserve.
- (3) The company has indicated that it may be appropriate to vary the original offset proposal. This is understood to be informed by four years of detailed environmental surveys.
- (4) Government is bound to consider any proposal on its merits.