

KALGOORLIE CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES (KCGM) —
MINE SITES' PROXIMITY TO RAILWAY LINE

3824. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer the proposed Lucknow, Pharlap, Milanese Open cuts, the Westralia Lode gold mineralization, the gold resources known as Sons of Gwalia, Charlotte Fault and Golden Dream located close to the Trans Australian Railway line in the vicinity of the Mt Charlotte/Cassidy mining operations owned by Barrick Gold and Newmont Mining managed by KCGM, and the Goldfields Esperance Region 2010-2020 Strategic Plan produced by the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission, and I ask —

- (1) Does the Minister recognise the critical importance of removing the railway line from its current location which will then facilitate the proposed mining of the proposed Lucknow, Pharlap, Milanese Open cuts and the Westralia Lode gold mineralization in the near vicinity of the Trans Australian Railway, providing for approximately another 10 to 20 years of open cut mining giving enormous confidence to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), can the Minister explain the rationale as to how he recognizes the importance?
- (4) With reference to the Goldfields Esperance Region 2010-2020 Strategic Plan, does the Minister recognize the land which encompasses the railway land covering the northern line railway line from around Piccadilly street through to at least Killarney Street Kalgoorlie and possibly further, could be sold off as private land lots to offset some of the cost for the \$60 million dollar relocation of the railway bypass around Kalgoorlie- Boulder?
- (5) If no to (4), will the Minister request a detailed analysis from his department on this proposal?
- (6) Can the Minister indicate how many times Westnet Rail or its predecessors has considered the above proposal or similar in the last 20 years, and on each occasion the price of gold at the time of consideration?
- (7) If no to (6), why not?
- (8) Can the Minister indicate when the Government will allocate approximately \$60 million to fund the relocation of the 'railway bypass around Kalgoorlie-Boulder'?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The member is advised to refer this question to the Honourable Minister for Regional Development..