

ESPERANCE LEAD CONTAMINATION

917. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Treasurer:

This question was originally directed to the Leader of the House representing the Premier but has been redirected to the Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer.

I refer to the Premier's statement on Q&A on Monday, 5 November 2012, in reference to the lead in Esperance, "We spent \$30 million cleaning the whole town and a mining industry economy is prosperous enough to do that. Now, that was a result of transport, not mining activities, but it was fixed."

- (1) Did the mining industry contribute any funds towards the clean-up?
- (2) How much in total did the Liberal–National government contribute financially to the clean-up?
- (3) Is the Premier confident that the Liberal–National government "fixed" the clean-up in a satisfactory manner and that there will be no legacies?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. This answer is provided in my capacity as Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport. The Department of Transport advises —

- (1) Under a deed of settlement between the Esperance Port Authority, Magellan Metals, the State of Western Australia and Ivernia Inc, Magellan Metals committed towards the clean-up costs.
- (2) Expenditure is continuing this financial year to complete sentinel monitoring within the town site, and once completed an accurate figure will be known.
- (3) As this question is asking an opinion of the Premier, it is best referred to him.

Point of Order

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I directed the question to the Premier, who has now redirected it. I am now being told to redirect it back to the Premier.

The PRESIDENT: When you ask questions involving aspects of different portfolios, you have to break up those questions separately. If you ask a specific question of the Premier, it would have had to have gone to the Premier on that specific aspect. If you want a question concerning Treasury items or Transport items, it is a different minister; you cannot combine all those things into one question.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: Mr President, if I may: it was a question directed to the Premier because of the Premier's statement. I sought no advice from Treasury, I sought no advice from Transport; I wanted to clarify the Premier's statement. I directed the question to the Premier and was told that it would be redirected to the Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer. It now appears the Minister for Transport has answered it.

The PRESIDENT: The same thing applies: it would still have required you to break that question up into two segments, if you required responses from two completely different ministers.

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I was not; I just required an answer from the Premier.

The PRESIDENT: There is no point of order. You would have to put a question specifically to the Premier on that aspect. I remind you that you cannot ask a minister for an opinion, so the question may have to be rephrased in terms of the specific information you require.

Questions without Notice Resumed