

**MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM**

*Mining Amendment Bill 2021 — Personal Explanation*

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum)** [2.58 pm]: Madam Speaker, I rise under standing order 148 to address a query raised last Thursday in the lower house debate in consideration in detail of the Mining Amendment Bill 2021 regarding the transfer of program of works approvals from an exploration licence to a mining lease. The advice at the time was that administrative approval would be given to the activities that had previously been approved under the exploration licence or the mining lease. The advice was that they would not need to make a fresh application. At the time of providing that advice in response to the question from the member for Moore, I stated that if a correction was required to that advice, I would provide it.

Upon further information from the agency, I stand today to clarify that where an exploration licence is converted to a mining lease, a new program of work will be required to be lodged for those activities unless they have been submitted in a mining development and closure proposal and approved on an approvals statement. As detailed in the environmental applications administrative procedures, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will administratively deal with and fast-track such applications. Subsequent approval is required because of the tenement-centric nature of the Mining Act 1978 and the need for the application to be reflected on the new tenure. Approvals cannot be carried over. In such circumstances, the applicant resubmits the program of work, for which DMIRS facilitates approval of the activities through a fast-tracked administered process. This is a different process from when an applicant lodges a fresh application that undergoes an assessment by an officer. From a legal perspective, a new application is recorded against the new tenement; however, the process is more administratively efficient than an application for new activities.

**The SPEAKER:** I encourage members to stay in the chamber for a few minutes for the tabling of the Procedure and Privileges Committee report.