

WARDENS COURT DECISION

**254. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to a decision in the Wardens Court delivered by Warden McPhee on 14 March in the matter of competing applications for exploration licences by Electron Resources Pty Ltd and others.

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing on the implications of this decision and the potential outcome of the Supreme Court case underway of *Richmond v McPhee and Regis Resources Ltd*?
- (2) Is the minister aware that there is a risk that Supreme Court decision may result in the invalidation of all exploration applications and granted titles in WA?
- (3) What, if anything, does the minister propose to do to prepare for and mitigate this potential risk?

**Mr D.R. MICHAEL replied:**

- (1)–(3) As the member would know, under the former minister the state introduced the Mining Amendment (Procedures and Validation) Bill in 2018 to deal with some of the issues the member has spoken about. I understand that there are court cases underway, which I will not make comment on. It is something I have been briefed on and that we will continue to look at. The member will understand that that legislation was not progressed because it requires some, I think, amendments to legislation or at least some concurrence with the federal government. We are actively looking at whether there are other ways to protect the mining industry in some of these matters while these cases are underway.