

FORTESCUE METALS GROUP — YINDJIBARNDI PEOPLE NEGOTIATIONS

240. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the video available at <http://vimeo.com/21871850> documenting negotiations between Fortescue Metals Group and the Yindjibarndi people on 16 March 2011.

- (1) Does the Attorney General consider this a proper way for a company to conduct native title negotiations over land access?
- (2) If no to (1), what does the Attorney General intend to do about this appalling state of affairs?
- (3) If yes to (1), why?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The Attorney General has advised that the meeting the subject of the footage was an internal Yindjibarndi claim group meeting, not a negotiation meeting. The state was not invited to attend the meeting and was not represented at the meeting. The state would always encourage people in this sort of setting to conduct themselves in a reasonable and respectful manner, but the state has no influence over the conduct of private gatherings.