

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources

Rehabilitation of the Peko and Warrego Mine Sites

1. In 2016 a dust survey was conducted at the Peko Mine Site by your Department. This was due to be released in early 2018. Has this work been completed? If so, when will it be made public?
2. If the survey results will not be made public, why not?
3. I understand that in 2016 a stock exclusion fence was erected at the old Warrego mine site. What additional investment will be made to rehabilitate this site?
4. Will a dust survey be conducted at the Warrego mine site? If not, why not? Will the results be made public?
5. Please outline what plans are in place to further rehabilitate the Warrego and Peko mine sites.
6. Please outline any community health or environmental impact assessments that have been or will be completed on the Warrego and Peko sites.

Response:

1. The dust assessment at Peko was commissioned in late 2015 and the final report was completed and delivered to the Department in late 2018. The assessment found that the dust concentrations measured in and around Tennant Creek were generally low and well within guideline levels. In view of this, it was concluded that the dust from Peko is unlikely to result in impacts on human health. A hard copy of the report is attached.
2. A hard copy of the report is attached.
3. It is the responsibility of the operator of the Warrego Tails Project to manage on-site activities, including rehabilitation work, in line with their authorisation for site operations.
4. The Department of Primary Industry and Resources has no immediate plans to fund further dust survey work at Warrego.

The management of environmental conditions on the site is the responsibility of the operator, in line with their authorisation under the Mining Management Act.

5. Both Warrego and Peko mine sites are operated in line with authorisations under the Mining Management Act. It is the operator's responsibility to manage environmental impacts and ultimately rehabilitate the sites to agreed standards.
6. The Department of Primary Industry and Resources (the Department) has undertaken the following works at Warrego and Peko:
 - a. Construction of a stock fence around the Aard Metals Limited portion of the Warrego site. This work was undertaken by the Department in circumstances where the (then) mine site holder was under Administration and had no capacity to complete that work.
 - b. A dust survey at Peko to investigate potential risks from windblown tailings.

At this time, the government does not have any plans to commission any further assessment work at these sites.