

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources

#### **Mining Activity and Land Access**

1. What is the Labor Government's policy when it comes to land access for mining companies?

*The Government supports the mining sector in obtaining access to land for minerals exploration and mining, while ensuring appropriate protection of environmental values and that there are safeguards in relation to a landholder's property rights.*

2. Does the Government's policy take into account the size of the operation seeking access for mineral exploration and activity? If not, why not?

*The process of negotiating land access agreements for exploration activities is set out in detail on the Department of Primary Industry and Resources website: <https://nt.gov.au/industry/mining-and-petroleum/land-access-agreements-for-exploration/introduction>*

*Information available at the above link shows that there is a difference between mineral exploration that is for non-intrusive activity and mineral exploration that is for substantial disturbance.*

3. Has the Labor Government examined or sought to benchmark land access arrangements in the Territory for mining activities with best practice nationally or internationally? If not, why not?

*The NT Government continually reviews the application of policy in the context of what is occurring in other jurisdictions and feedback from affected parties.*

4. Is the Government aware of any industry concern regarding the current land access arrangements?

*Yes. The NT Government has been working with representative bodies (such as the NT Cattlemen's Association, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and the Minerals Council NT) to encourage a collaborative approach to land access.*

5. Has the Government sought or received any legal advice in relation to security of land access for mineral exploration, and what has been the nature of this advice?

*Legal advice is sought as and when required. The Department of Primary Industry and Resources has received legal advice in relation to the rights of mineral explorers and pastoralists under relevant legislation.*

6. Will any legal advice provided to Government in relation to mineral resources and land access be made public? If not, why not?

*Legal advice is privileged.*

7. Is the Government aware of any current legal disputes arising from current mineral resources land access arrangements?

*Any disputes concerning land access to a particular station are matters for the relevant parties.*

*My Department is not aware of any matters relating to land access for mineral exploration being referred to the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal.*

8. Has a review of land access arrangements for mineral resource companies been to Cabinet under this Government? If so, what was the outcome of that meeting?

*Matters relating to Cabinet are confidential.*