

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 912

asked on Tuesday, 21 August 2018

MR D LAST ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a Fume Event in Moranbah in November 2017—

Will the Minister advise (a) what steps were taken to investigate the event, (b) the outcome of the investigation, (c) why, despite the department being contacted four times, there is still no response to my constituent's complaint and (d) whether this is the way the government deals with potentially dangerous events in regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

I apologise that a written response was not provided at the time; however, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy did immediately investigate the issue. The fume incident in question occurred at a mine in Moranbah on 29 November 2017 and the department received notification of this high-potential incident on the same day.

The incident occurred when blast fumes left the fume management zone in place for a planned blast. This was recorded as a high-potential incident and formal notification was received by the department on 30 November 2017.

An investigation into the incident was commenced jointly by the Explosives and Coal Mines inspectorates and information was obtained which indicated that the mine had implemented immediate corrective action to prevent a recurrence. The Explosives Inspectorate released a communication to the mining industry on 1 December 2017 regarding effective fume management.

The site senior executive of the mine site forwarded the mines investigation report to the department on 27 December 2017 which verified these corrective actions. A site meeting took place on 22 January 2018 where the mine management presented its investigation findings and corrective actions to the explosive and coal mine inspectors. The inspectorate has verified that the mine site has implemented corrective actions.