

Question On Notice No. 6291 asked in the **Legislative Council** on **6 May 2008** by **Hon Giz Watson**

Question Directed to the: **Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development**

Minister responding: **Hon E.S. Ripper**

Parliament: **37** Session: **1**

Question

Further to question on notice No. 5995, Cape Bougainville in the Kimberley Region incorporates a high conservation value bauxite plateau surrounded by near continuous virgin rainforest. The rainforest is pristine by virtue of a fence that was put in place by the former Department of Conservation and Land Management (now the Department of Environment and Conservation), and I ask -

(1) As at 31 March 2008, and in accordance with current Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) data, what -

(a) total drill-indicated in-situ bauxite reserves have been delineated at Cape Bougainville (without beneficiation, including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values);

(b) total drill-indicated reserves have been delineated at Cape Bougainville after beneficiation using the hole cut-off method (including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values);

(c) total drill-inferred in-situ bauxite reserves have been delineated at Cape Bougainville (without beneficiation, including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values); and

(d) total drill-inferred reserves have been delineated at Cape Bougainville after beneficiation using the hole cut-off method (including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values)?

(2) As at 31 March, 2008, can the Minister please, -

(a) show spatially the area and boundaries of known bauxite reserves found at Cape Bougainville;

(b) provide details as to both the total drill-indicated in-situ bauxite reserves and total drill-inferred bauxite reserves that have been delineated for each area at Cape Bougainville (without beneficiation, including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values), including the name of each deposit;

(c) provide details as to both the total drill-indicated in-situ bauxite reserves and total drill-inferred bauxite reserves that have been delineated for each area at Cape Bougainville after beneficiation using the hole cut-off method (including tonnages, grades and reactive silica values); and

(d) provide details as to the total area (as measured in square kilometres) for each bauxite deposit at Cape Bougainville?

(3) What is the total area of Cape Bougainville (as measured in square kilometres)?

- (4) What current land tenure arrangements is Cape Bougainville currently subject to?
- (5) Do any mining and/or exploration interests exist, or are there any pending, in respect of the area described generally as Cape Bougainville?
- (6) If yes to (5), will the Minister please outline details as to, -
- (a) the nature of the mining and/or exploration interests as split out by the type of interest;
 - (b) the nature of the mining and/or exploration interests as split out by the type of interest as further split out by interest holder(s) and its parent entity where a parent entity exists;
 - (c) the dates in respect of which each interest was acquired; and
 - (d) in the case of applications pending, the names of the applicants and the rights, if any, currently conferred upon the applicants?
- (7) Will the Minister please outline, -
- (a) when drilling exploration was last conducted at Cape Bougainville;
 - (b) the names of the parties involved in that exploration;
 - (c) the nature of conservation management regimes that currently exist in respect of Cape Bougainville;
 - (d) what studies have been undertaken by the Department of Conservation and Environment at Cape Bougainville since 1985; and
 - (e) what management plans exist for the protection of the conservation and heritage values of Cape Bougainville?
- (8) Will the Minister please table all internal memoranda prepared by the Department of Conservation and Environment and/or the Department of Industry and Resources in respect of the conservation status and/or values of the Mitchell Plateau and/or Cape Bougainville since 1 September 2007?

Answered on 4 June 2008

- (1) and (2) The Geological Survey of Western Australia has no data on bauxite reserves nor the area of each deposit. References containing information on the deposits are as follows.
- (i) BARDOSSY, G., and ALEVA, G. J. J., 1990, Lateritic bauxites: Amsterdam, Elsevier, p. 454-456.
 - (ii) JOKLIK, G. F., JACKSON, W. P., and ZANI, J. A., 1975, Kimberley bauxite deposits, *in* Economic geology of Australia and Papua New Guinea *edited by* C. L. KNIGHT: Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Monograph 5, v. 1 -- Metals, p. 968-990.

(3) 470 square kilometres

(4) Crown Reserve 24705 for the use and benefit of Aborigines

(5) Yes

(6) (a) Mining Leases M80/47 to M80/60

(b) Mining Leases M80/47 to M80/60: Holder 1 -- Alcoa of Australia Ltd and Holder 2 -- Mitchell Plateau Bauxite Co. Pty Ltd. Parent entities -- AngloGold Ashanti Limited (10.0%), AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited (10%), Alcoa of Australia Limited (22.5%) and Rio Tinto Aluminium Limited (67.5%)

(c) Mining Leases M80/47 to M80/60 granted 06/08/1985

(d) Exploration Licence Application E80/3859 -- Kimberley Bauxite Pty Ltd

Exploration Licence Application E80/3912 -- Bauxite Resources Limited. Rights conferred to the applicants consist of priority to ground not subject to existing granted mining tenure.

(7) (a) 1969

(b) AMAX Bauxite Corporation (a subsidiary of American Metal Climax Inc)

(c) Not known (this part of the question should be referred to the Minister for the Environment)

(d) Not known (this part of the question should be referred to the Minister for the Environment)

(e) Not known (this part of the question should be referred to the Minister for the Environment)

(8) None for the Department of Industry and Resources. This question should be referred to the Minister for the Environment.