

Indonesia: Mining
(Question No. 715)

Senator Brown asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon notice, on 30 September 2002:

With reference to the quarterly meetings between the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Richard Smith, and representatives of Australian owned mining operations in Indonesia held in each of the following years: (a) 1999; (b) 2000; (c) 2001; and (d) 2002:

- (1) When were the meetings held.
- (2) What issues were raised with the ambassador at each of the meetings.
- (3) (a) Which companies attended each of these meetings; and (b) who represented the individual companies.
- (4) What actions did the ambassador agree to undertake, if any, from each of these meetings.

Senator Hill—The Minister for Foreign Affairs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

- (1) These meetings were held on:
 - (a) None.
 - (b) 10 August 2000.
 - (c) 8 February 2001, 10 May 2001, and 27 September 2001.
 - (d) 30 January 2002 and 22 July 2002.
- (2) Company representatives raised a number of issues relating to the operation of mine sites in Indonesia, including illegal mining activities, taxation, mining regulation under regional autonomy, and concerns relating to the Forestry Law 41 of 1999.
- (3) 10 August 2000: Aurora Gold (John Vernon, President Director, and Joe Ariti, Chief Operating Officer), BHP Indonesia (Ken Farrell, President Director), Normandy Asia (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Newcrest Indonesia (Tim Richards), Rio Tinto Indonesia (Noke Kiroyan, President Director)

8 February 2001: Arutmin Indonesia (Ken Farrell, President Director), Aurora Gold (Joe Ariti, President Director, Kim Bischoff, Regional Manager – Geology Environment, Allan Payne, Operations Manager), BHP Indonesia (Andrew Wilson, President Director), Newcrest Mining Limited (Dave Pearson, Regional Exploration Manager), Normandy Asia (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Nusa Halmahera Minerals (John Blake, General Manager), Rio Tinto Indonesia (Noke Kiroyan, President Director, and Dean Dvorak), Koba Tin (Peter Jackson, President Director), WMC Services (Rob Bills)

10 May 2001: Arutmin Indonesia (Frans Affendy, General Manager), Aurora Gold (Joe Ariti, President-Director, and Dean Stewart, Deputy Operations Director), BHP Indonesia (Andrew Wilson, President-Director), Koba Tin (Peter Jackson, President Director), Murawai Coal (Mike Friederich, Director), Newcrest Indonesia (Tim Richards, President-Director, and Dan Wood, Executive General Manager-Exploration), Normandy Asia (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Nusa Halmahera Minerals (John Blake, General Manager), Rio Tinto Indonesia (Noke Kiroyan, President-Director)

27 September 2001: BHP Indonesia (Andrew Wilson, President-Director), Newcrest Indonesia (Tim Richards, President-Director, and Dan Wood, Executive General Manager-Exploration), Koba Tin (Peter Jackson, President Director), Normandy Asia (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Placerdome (Shane Volk, Finance Director), Rio Tinto Indonesia (Noke Kiroyan, President-Director)

30 January 2002: Aurora Gold (Joe Ariti, President-Director, and Kim Bishop), BHP Indonesia (Andrew Wilson, President-Director), Newcrest Indonesia (Tim Richards, President-Director), Kaltim Prima Coal (Noke Kiroyan, President), Normandy Asia (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Placerdome (Shane Volk, Finance Director).

22 July 2002: Aurora Gold (Stuart Rimmer), Newcrest Indonesia (Tim Richards, President-Director), Horas Nauli (Bill Howell, Managing Director), Placerdome (Shane Volk, Finance Director), Rio Tinto Indonesia (Lex Graefe, President Director).

- (4) Mr Smith agreed to make representations, where appropriate, to the Indonesian Government on behalf of Australian companies on a range of issues of concern.

Indonesia: Mining
(Question No. 716)

Senator Brown asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon notice, on 30 September 2002:

- (1) With reference to the concerns of Australian-based and/or -owned mining companies with the ban on open-cut mining in protected forests in Indonesia: Have Australian mining companies made representations to the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Richard Smith, about their concerns on the restrictions on mining in protected areas; if so: (a) which companies made representations; (b) when were these representations made; (c) what did the companies request from the ambassador or embassy officials; and (d) what action was taken on these requests.

Senator Hill—The Minister for Foreign Affairs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) BHP Billiton Indonesia, Newcrest Indonesia, Nusa Halmahera Minerals, Placerdome, and Rio Tinto Indonesia.
- (b) Australian companies have raised their concerns about this matter at a number of meetings.
- (c) Companies asked that representations be made to the Indonesian Government highlighting the contradiction between mining companies' rights under their existing contracts of work and provisions contained in Forestry Law 41 of 1999, the impact of the Forestry Law on the mining industry, and the need for revision of the Forestry Law.
- (d) Representations were made to Indonesian Ministers, Parliamentarians, and officials (see answer to Question 717).

Indonesia: Mining
(Question No. 717)

Senator Brown asked the Minister representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon notice, on 30 September 2002:

- (1) With reference to the concerns of Australian-based and/or -owned mining companies with the ban on open-cut mining in protected forests in Indonesia: Has the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Richard Smith, or have embassy officials, made representations to Indonesian government officials supporting changes to the law in order to allow mining to proceed in protected forests; if so: (a) when did these meetings occur; (b) who were the meetings with; (c) did the ambassador and/or embassy officials accompany mining industry representatives to these meetings; and (d) why are these representations not considered to infringe on the sovereign right of Indonesia to decide on the conditions under which mining can and cannot occur.

Senator Hill—The Minister for Foreign Affairs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

- (1) Yes.
- (a), (b) and (c)
- 3 April 2000
- The then Ambassador raised the matter with senior Indonesian Ministers during a roundtable meeting on the mining sector. The Ministers included Kwik Kian Gie, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs; Bambang Yudhoyono, Minister for Mines and Energy; and Sonny Keraf, State Minister for Environment. No company representatives were present.
- 7 July 2000
- Embassy officials raised the matter with senior officials from the Department of Mines and Energy. No company representatives were present.
- 19 September 2001

Mr Smith raised the matter with Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources. No company representatives were present.

23 January 2002

Mr Smith raised the matter with Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources. No company representatives were present.

20 June 2002.

Embassy officials and representatives of Australian mining companies raised the matter with senior officials from the Department of Forestry.

12 July 2002

Embassy officials and representatives of Australian mining companies raised the matter with members of Indonesia's Parliamentary Commission III (Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Marine Affairs).

22 July 2002

Mr Smith raised the matter with Dr Boediono, Minister for Finance. No company representatives were present.

6 September 2002

An Embassy official raised the matter with the Chairman of Indonesia's Parliamentary Commission VIII (Mining and Environment). No company representatives were present.

10 September 2002

An Embassy official raised the matter with the Chairman and representatives of Indonesia's Parliamentary Commission III (Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Marine Affairs). No company representatives were present.

- (d) The Embassy's representations were focused on highlighting the contradiction existing between Australian mining companies' rights under their contracts of work and provisions contained in Forestry Law 41 of 1999, both of which had been ratified by Indonesia's Parliament, and the uncertainty surrounding the conservation value of some areas that had been designated as "protected forest".