

- (c) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be, shall give directions for the printing and circulation to members of the report; and
- (d) the report shall be laid on the Table of the Assembly at the next sittings.

Mr Speaker, the purpose of this motion is to allow the presentation of the report of the Public Accounts Committee into Dalway. At this stage, I do not envisage it being completed prior to Christmas because there is a great deal of work to be done. Opposition members can rest assured that there will be no move afoot to drop this report in their absence or without their prior knowledge. Speaking at first hand in relation to this, there is a huge amount of work to be done and it is quite unlikely that the report will be presented before the middle of January.

Mr BAILEY (Wanguri): Mr Speaker, the opposition was aware that this motion would be moved and we support it.

Motion agreed to.

**MCARTHUR RIVER PROJECT AGREEMENT RATIFICATION BILL**  
(Serial 190)

Continued from 1 October 1992.

Mrs HICKEY (Barkly): Mr Speaker, this is the first time that a mining project has been the subject of a franchise agreement in the Northern Territory. Another project of national significance, the Mt Todd goldmine, is to be dealt with similarly. It is to be hoped that these 2 major developments, together with initiatives in northern Queensland, will herald a new era in mining for the Northern Territory and for development of the top end of Australia.

In the context of northern Australian development and the national interest, the mining enterprise at McArthur River that we are dealing with today could not have a better name - HYC stands for "Here's Your Chance" - and here is our chance to witness the beginnings of one of the most exciting mining developments in many years. It is a chance for the nation and for the likely creation of 1000 jobs, direct and indirect, and export earnings of \$200m a year. It has been a chance also for the federal government to approve a fast-track development, and I will be talking a little more about fast-tracking later. After 40 years of developmental work and expenditure, it is a chance for Mt Isa Mines and its recent joint venture partners. It has studied the forecasts, has decided that world demand for zinc will increase through the 1990s and is confident that McArthur River can be a profitable mine in times of cyclical price downturn.

Looking specifically at MIM's share of the Australian market, it is worth mentioning a few production figures. Last year, MIM's Australian production of lead was a little over 196 000 t, zinc was around 228 000 t and silver 16 580 000 ozs. Once into production, MIM's production will boost these figures by an additional 115 000 t of zinc - a 50% increase on the 1991-92 figures - 32 000 t of lead and 1 150 000 ozs of silver. It is a particularly welcome chance for the Northern Territory in terms of jobs, training, contracts and the development of business opportunities associated with the construction and mining operation. These opportunities will be spread throughout the Territory and, as the member for the region in which the mine is situated, I have urged businesses and individuals from Tennant