

**Senate Environment and Communications References Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
**Inquiry into Oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin**  
02 August 2021

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

**TOPIC:** QoN 8. 7th of July decision

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 02 August 2021, Page 32)

**QUESTION No.: 8**

Senator McCARTHY: On 7 July, Minister Pitt chose Empire out of many companies. How many companies were passed over?

Mr Trotman: Again, Senator, I think that goes to deliberations that are around the court case, but we will do our very best to be able to provide you with an answer before the end of the week, as per my answers to previous questions around how the scheme is administered.

Senator McCARTHY: Can you please provide the assessment of Empire against the guidelines?

Mr Trotman: Sorry, Senator, I didn't hear the first part of your question.

Senator McCARTHY: Could you please provide your assessment of Empire against your guidelines?

Mr Trotman: We'll do our very best, Senator. Again, it could be that it's part of the legal proceedings, but, as I said, we will do our very best to provide you with that information before the end of the week.

**ANSWER**

It is important to note that Empire Energy did not apply for this grant program and is a separate legal entity to Imperial Oil & Gas. The Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program operates on a first come, first served basis. Each application is assessed on its own merit against the criteria established in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, and not against the merit of other applications received in the program. Therefore no companies have been “passed over” in order to grant Imperial Oil & Gas funds under this program.

The Department's grant funding assessments for Imperial Oil & Gas is detailed in the document titled “Beetaloo – funding tracking sheet – scoring matrix”.