

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
2021 - 2022 Supplementary Budget Estimates

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

OUTCOME: Agencies

TOPIC: Subsequent Inspections - Nganhurra

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rex Patrick

QUESTION DATE: 05 November 2021

QUESTION No.: SI-91

In the File Note provided to the committee, the findings in regard to the Inergen Cylinders found very serious issues with their certification by Lloyd's, with the potential of it involving fraud. In the reply of 21 September 2021 "Answers to questions on notice from a public hearing in Canberra on 20 August 2021", page 6 there is no mention of the findings, conclusions and a total of five (5) recommendations given in the File Note. The explanation was that by the time the report was completed the asset had left the regime.

1. With the possibility of fraud and gross negligence of individuals being involved, how does NOPSEMA justify "No Action" being taken in relation to these serious findings?

ANSWER

NOPSEMA took necessary and appropriate enforcement action against Woodside in relation to the maintenance of the Inergen system to require the facility operator to address risks to the safety of members of the workforce. The enforcement notice is published on NOPSEMA's website at <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/A637371.pdf>.

The notice was issued in late 2018 and as previously advised, the ship-type facility left the regime by end 2018, not to return to Australia. In this respect the matter of risks to members of the workforce was no longer apparent and the notice was then closed.

The Lloyds Review in 2019, and request for documents on the Nganhurra, even following the vessel's departure, remained important for NOPSEMA to review the scope of issues associated with the Inergen system. From information identified in the review, NOPSEMA raised the Nganhurra Class related issues with AMSA directly, given that AMSA accredits recognised organisations, such as Lloyds Register, under an agreement governing the provision of survey and certification services for ships registered in Australia.