

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: AMSA Communication

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Rex Patrick

QUESTION DATE: 05 November 2021

QUESTION No.: SI-92

In NOPSEMA's reply of 21 September 2021 "Answers to questions on notice from a public hearing in Canberra on 20 August 2021", page 7 provides a series of communications between NOPSEMA & AMSA. However there appears to be a gap in the communications, the last communication was on 26 August 2019, whereas the File Note is dated 24 September 2019 and the Final Inspection Report for the Northern Endeavour is dated 27 September 2019.

1. Why did NOPSEMA choose not to inform AMSA of the major non-conformances contained in the File Note on all four (4) of the assets inspected, but in particular the Montara Venture and Nganhurra which was critical to AMSA's delegation of Statutory Certification work to Lloyd's which had evidence of gross negligence and probable fraud?

ANSWER

NOPSEMA outlined its engagement with AMSA on Lloyds Review matters in its response to the Inquiry into Australia's Oil and Gas Reserves. In particular NOPSEMA mentioned how specific issues about the Nganhurra and Pyrenees Venture were raised with AMSA about potential non-conformances. NOPSEMA notes that the Montara was not raised in that specific AMSA correspondence. NOPSEMA's focus on the Montara at that time was associated with recent NOPSEMA enforcement actions taken against the Montara on the overall condition and performance of the facility, and the Montara was subject to NOPSEMA's compliance monitoring plan at that time.

In its response to the Inquiry, NOPSEMA also summarised the meeting held between NOPSEMA's CEO and AMSA's CEO that raised the questionable validity of some special survey extensions and the basis for class suspensions. This discussion covered all of the four ship-type facilities.