

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

MIGRATION AMENDMENT (OFFSHORE RESOURCES ACTIVITY) REPEAL BILL 2014

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION AND
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Questions:

Has the specific visa envisaged by the *Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Act 2013* been developed by the department?

Should the repeal bill fail to pass before the commencement of the Act, will the specific visa pathway be ready to be implemented by the department?

What, if any, work has the department conducted towards the development of the specific visa envisaged by the *Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Act 2013*?

Answers:

The government has no plans to develop a new visa specifically for the offshore resources industry.

If the *Migration Amendment (Offshore Resources Activity) Act 2013* (the ORA Act) is not repealed before 29 June 2014, the department will implement a visa pathway for those non-citizens who currently do not require a visa. As announced by the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection on 30 May 2014, all people who are subject to the ORA Act will need to hold either a permanent visa, or one of the following:

- the maritime crew visa for articulated crew members of vessels who are participating in, or supporting, an offshore resources activity;
- the temporary work (short stay activity) (subclass 400) visa for people undertaking short-term, highly specialized, non-ongoing work; or
- the temporary work (skilled) (subclass 457) visa for people being sponsored by an approved business for up to four years.

The department has previously consulted industry groups, unions and migration agents on the implementation of a suitable visa pathway. Minor amendments were made to the *Migration Regulations 1994* to give effect to the visa pathway.

If the ORA Act is not repealed before 29 June 2014, the department has developed a communication strategy which will raise awareness of the visa arrangements in the industry.