

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into Australia's Oil and Gas Reserves
20 August 2021

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

TOPIC: QoN 5: The Laminaria-Corallina field

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 August 2021, Page 14)

QUESTION No.: 5

Senator PATRICK: Mr Waters, maybe noting that the Laminaria-Corallina field, as I understand, is not going to be looked at again. Even the court proceedings are not about re-establishing the field but about dismantling and disconnecting the vessel. Noting that's retired, perhaps you could provide again, with necessary in-confidence—and noting that secrecy provisions in acts don't apply to provision of data to the Senate—that particular field development plan. In some sense, it's an historical document. You can take that on notice.

Mr Waters: Again, I would need to seek guidance from the legal area within the department. But if we're able to, then we're happy to.

Senator PATRICK: Just point them to section 49 of the Constitution and some of the resolutions of the Senate when you talk to your legal team. How much resource is still in that particular field, the Laminaria and Corallina fields?

Mr Waters: I'm sorry, I don't have that information to hand.

Senator PATRICK: On notice, thank you; that would be appreciated.

ANSWER

Provision of field development plan

An extract of the contents of the field development plan is at Attachment A.

It is noted a field development plan is classified as permanently confidential through its inclusion in the definition of excluded information under regulation 1.06 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011* (the **Regulations**) and not publicly released at any time, including when the title is no longer in force.

Administration of field development plans

Under the Regulations if a field development plan had been accepted by the Joint Authority on the commencement day of the Regulations these were transitioned under Regulation 4.16. The Regulations commenced on 1 April 2011.

NOPTA uses annual titles assessment reports (submitted under Part 3 of the Regulations), monthly production reporting (submitted under Part 7 of the Regulations), and annual performance update meetings to monitor field performance against the field development plan. Part 4 of the Regulations outlines where a field development plan must be varied.

On 8 April 2021, the Australian Government endorsed an enhanced framework for the decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure in Australia, following a comprehensive review process. The enhanced decommissioning framework will modernise field development plans and require regular updates to planning and cost estimates for activities throughout the life of the field.

Resource volumes in the Laminaria and Corallina Fields

Based on the most recent annual title assessment report NOPTA considers that, given the current status of the project, remaining oil volumes represent approximately 5 million barrels of 2C contingent resources i.e. resource volumes without an identified commercially viable development pathway. NOPTA does not independently verify these numbers.

For a production licence NOPTA receives information on reserves or resources through the annual title assessment report under regulation 3.08 of the Regulations. The amounts are self-reported by the licensee.

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