

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001466

OUTCOME: 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

Topic: The National Assessment of Chemicals Associated with Coal Seam Gas Extraction

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Waters, Larissa

Question:

Please provide an updated response to Estimates Question on Notice SQ14-00632 of Budget Estimates 2014, noting that this question was about a preliminary procedural matter relating to the scope of the National Assessment of Chemicals associated with CSG extraction, namely: how has the term “shallow groundwater” been defined for the purpose of undertaking this assessment?

Answer:

Shallow groundwater is defined as groundwater that occurs in the shallowest aquifer bounded by a water table and an unsaturated zone of variable thickness (sometimes absent) above, and by deeper aquifer or aquitard systems below.