

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: NOPSEMA

TOPIC: Review of NOPSEMA's compliance

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Wright

QUESTION No.: AI-42

It has been announced that an independent review of NOPSEMA's compliance with the endorsed program under the streamlined arrangements will soon commence.

- a. Will the review consider if NOPSEMA has met a level of equivalency with the EPBC process?
- b. Will the review consider if exploration should be included in the Offshore Project Proposals (OPP) process in the future?
- c. Will there be an opportunity for stakeholder comment on the review before it is completed?

ANSWER

- a. The objective of the review is to assess the performance of NOPSEMA's environmental management authorisation process in meeting the objectives of the Program¹ including, ensuring that activities will not result in unacceptable impacts on matters protected under Part 3 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The outcomes of the review will enable NOPSEMA to determine if refinements to management arrangements are required to ensure the commitments and objectives for matters protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are being delivered under the endorsed Program.
- b. No – that issue is outside the scope of the review.
- c. The Terms of Reference approved by the Department of the Environment include an independent reviewer engaging with relevant stakeholders to inform the review.

¹ The environmental management authorisation process for petroleum and greenhouse gas activities administered by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* endorsed by the Minister for the Environment on 7 February 2014.