

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates  
31 May – 1 June 2017

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** NOPTA retention leases

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Xenophon

**QUESTION No.:** BI-79

1. Which 10 retention leases have been opened up for commercial review in the North West Shelf?
2. How were these ten retention leases selected?
3. What are the potential reserves of gas of each of the ten selected tenements?

**ANSWER**

1. Petroleum Retention Lease WA-1-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-20-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-22-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-28-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-29-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-30-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-31-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-32-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-53-R  
Petroleum Retention Lease WA-70-R
2. These retention leases were selected to allow NOPTA to analyse their potential to be developed through the North West Shelf (NWS) processing facility. It is NOPTA's view that the availability of processing capacity may assist in removing barriers to development for fields in the region that are reliant on gaining access to infrastructure or have been unable to progress a commercial stand-alone development. As part of the commercial re-evaluation process lessees were requested to consider development of their resources through the NWS facility.

In selecting these ten retention leases NOPTA considered:

- The proximity of the resource within each retention lease to the NWS infrastructure;
  - The current work program and conditions associated with each retention lease;
  - Information on commerciality provided at the time of the most recent grant or renewal for each retention lease and relevant Annual Title Assessment Reports; and
  - NOPTA's understanding of the barriers to development for each retention lease.
3. As this information was provided in confidence to NOPTA, section 712 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* prevents the Titles Administrator from providing this information. Section 715 of the Act prevents the Minister from providing this information.

However a number of public sources of information have estimates of the reserves in the various petroleum retention leases, and NOPTA can provide the following estimates from the Wood Mackenzie database:

Field Name	Petroleum Retention Lease	Estimated recoverable 2P technical gas reserves *
Scarborough	WA-1-R	6,876 Bcf
Orthrus/ Geryon	WA-20-R/ WA-22-R	Not available
Calliance	WA-28-R/ WA-31-R	6,000 Bcf
Brecknock	WA-29-R/ WA-32-R	1,700 Bcf
Torosa	WA-30-R	8,200 Bcf
Chandon	WA-53-R	2,089 Bcf
Equus	WA-70-R	2,500 Bcf

\* [www.woodmac.com/reports](http://www.woodmac.com/reports). Accessed 19.06.2017