

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts

Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Environment Australia

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 7

Division: Approvals and Legislation

Topic: Bilateral agreement with Queensland

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: 22

Senator Bolkus asked:

In relation to the progress of the development of bilateral agreements with the States and Territories under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

“Can you come back to us with details as to what the outstanding issue is in Queensland?”

Answer:

There are very few outstanding issues to be resolved with Queensland in relation to the development of an assessment bilateral agreement under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A key issue for Queensland in finalising an agreement is achieving passage through the Queensland Parliament of necessary amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* and the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* in order to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act and Regulations, as well as meeting Queensland's own legal requirements. An additional matter to be settled is the approach to be taken to reviewing whether the implementation of the EPBC Act will result in any additional cost to Qld.

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Department of the Environment and Heritage

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Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 8, 9

Division: Approvals & Legislation

Topic: IAEA Symposium

Hansard Pages: 24 – 25

Senator Bolkus asked:

1. Do you have an agenda for that Conference (IAEA Symposium)?
2. There would have been a series of papers presented. Can you we get them? Can we get the ones you have got?
3. Did anyone from Egypt make a contribution? Can you check that? If you have copies, that would be great.

Answers:

1. Attached.
2. Those available are attached.
3. There was no paper presented by a delegate from Egypt, but there was a poster presentation (by Mahdy et al, see agenda p9 in attached documentation). The Department holds no details of this poster.

Please note due to the size of the *Book of Extended Synopses* and the *Book of Extended Synopses (Addendum 1)* only the cover and tables of contents are attached. Complete copies are available on request from the ECITA Committee Secretariat.

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Department of the Environment and Heritage

Environment Australia

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 10, 11, 12

Division: Approvals & Legislation

Topic: Lucas Heights Reactor – Environmental Assessment

Hansard Pages: ECITA 26 – 27

Senator Bolkus asked:

10. So does the Minister have the power, for instance, to say ‘It is not good enough. Go back and start again’? Is that one of the powers of ARPANSA legislation that could be at the direction of a government or a minister? ... Not this Minister but any minister? ... Maybe you would like to take it on notice for us.
11. So will you find out for us and come back to us [on the issue of ANSTO’s consulting with the Roads and Traffic Authority re- the road intersection]?
12. Has this [development of a stormwater control plan] been met yet?

Answers:

10. ARPANSA has advised that discretion for the granting of a licence, and any conditions attached to it, lies entirely with the Chief Executive Officer of ARPANSA.
11. ANSTO has advised that a review of traffic densities at the intersection in question has been completed and awaits the approval of the NSW RTA. A decision on the necessity for an upgrade, and if so, the type of junction, will be made on the outcomes of this review.
12. The development of such a plan is in progress and will be submitted to the Department for approval when completed.