

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Budget Senate Estimates

23 February 2011

Question: AR15
Topic: PTTEP – Publishing of Monitoring Results
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Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Thank you. I want to turn quickly to PTTEP. Part of the conditions there is a rigorous monitoring program for 18 months?

Ms Constable—That is correct.

Senator SIEWERT—It will be monitored each month—is that correct?

Senator SIEWERT—Who will be undertaking the monitoring? And I understand that the monitoring plan is still being developed—is that correct?

Mr Clarke—For clarity on the record, we are talking about the monitoring that will follow the minister’s consideration of the show cause notice and the action plan?

Senator SIEWERT—Yes. The action plan has been released. Some commitments were made by the government—requirements, I should say, that they put on the company that were going to require monitoring. So I am asking about who is going to be doing the monitoring—

Mr Clarke—The department will be responsible for the monitoring, reporting to the minister, but I am sure we will contract in expertise to assist us with that monitoring task.

Senator SIEWERT—Has the monitoring plan been developed?

Mr Clarke—Yes.

Senator SIEWERT—So it is ready to go? You will then be looking for somebody to do that monitoring?

Mr Clarke—Yes. We are talking to the potential experts about their assistance to us in that process.

Senator SIEWERT—Will that information then be publicly released?

Mr Clarke—You are familiar, obviously, with the minister’s announcement about the shape of it?

Senator SIEWERT—Yes.

Mr Clarke—The commitment of the government to do the monitoring, and the undertaking of the company to cooperate in that, is captured in a deed of agreement. That deed has been finally executed in the last 48 hours and we will be publishing that deed on our website. That is the formal document that scopes the undertakings of the

company and the role of the government in the monitoring. As to whether or not the results of the actual monitoring will be published, I am not sure that a decision has been made on that. I do not know. I would have to take that one a notice.

Answer:

On 22 February 2011 PTTEP entered into a Deed of Agreement with the Commonwealth, represented by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. The Deed of Agreement formalises the implementation of the *Montara Action Plan* across all of PTTEP's Australian operations and outlines the requirements of an 18 month monitoring program.

As part of this monitoring program, an independent review of actions undertaken by PTTEP will be undertaken at six monthly intervals to provide assurance that the *Montara Action Plan* is being completed in full and properly implemented by PTTEP across its Australian operations.

The Minister for Resources and Energy intends to make a statement, following the completion of each six monthly review, in regards to compliance and progress against implementation of the *Montara Action Plan* by PTTEP.