

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AR3

Topic: Earthquake Centred Near Moe, Victoria in June 2012

Proof Hansard Page: 17

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ: Yes, I thought you might be. I have some questions about the earthquake centred near Moe in Victoria around 9 pm. Was that on 19 June 2012?

Dr Pigram: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: Geoscience Australia's website provides details of the location and magnitude, and an estimated radii for both shaking and damage for earthquakes generally, does it not?

Dr Pigram: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: And it has done that in relation to the Moe earthquake as well?

Dr Pigram: Yes.

Senator ABETZ: I have printed from the website-I dare say you cannot see this, but basically what you do is have a green dot for the epicentre of the earthquake and then there is another circle-I am not sure if it is red or orange-around that and then a further one that is in black I think.

Dr Pigram: Yes.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, so you know what I am talking about. In this shot from the website, I am told this information has not yet been finalised. We pulled that off on 11 February 2013. When do you think the information might be finalised?

Dr Pigram: Can I take that on notice for you, Senator? We may well have done that work and perhaps not updated that site because of some of the events that have happened.

Senator ABETZ: That is what I am suspecting. The website informs me that this earthquake-the Moe earthquake-could have caused damage up to 20 kilometres away.

Answer:

Geoscience Australia (GA) finalised its analysis of the 19 June 2012 magnitude 5.4 earthquake near Moe, Victoria on 22 June 2012. Those using GA's website to find information about the earthquake would have seen the finalised information from this time onwards.

Senator Abetz's office have subsequently indicated that the interim earthquake analysis information referred to in the Committee's discussion was found through a web search engine, rather than through use of the search functionality on GA's website.

GA has investigated the issue and identified a fault in its website that can cause interim information to be displayed to users accessing the site via a web search engine. This fault has now been rectified.