

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

31 May 2011

Question: BR22
Topic: Coal Seam Gas – Total Extraction
Proof Hansard Page: 43

Senator Joyce asked:

Senator JOYCE: How much water will the coal seam gas projects currently underway remove from the Great Artesian Basin?

Dr Pigram: I would have to take that on notice to get you a number.

Senator JOYCE: The water group in the department of the environment said that it could be up to 45,000 gigalitres.

Dr Pigram: It may well be. I would have to take that on notice to give you an exact number.

Answer:

Queensland Gas Company, Australia Pacific LNG and Santos CSG company forecasts indicate that the coal gas projects will collectively produce 1,761 gigalitres over the life of their projects. This takes no account of any water re-injected pursuant to the conditions imposed by the Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* intended to significantly reduce the net amount of water extracted from the basin. The water production figure is based on company estimates whose robustness has not been assessed by Geoscience Australia.