

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates
21 October 2009

Question: SR-7
Topic: Flow rate – Montara Well
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Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Did you do any calculations yourself on the potential flow rates? Initially there was an absence of company advice on what the potential flow rates were. Did you do any calculations yourselves to estimate what the flow rates could be?

Mr Squire—Yes, we did.

Senator SIEWERT—And what were they?

Mr Squire—The information that we sought from Geoscience Australia was an estimation of what the rate of flow would be if that well was entirely unsealed, for want of a better expression.

Senator SIEWERT—And what were they? What was that rate?

Mr Squire—The maximum leakage rate from that well could be as much as 2,000 barrels of oil a day, with condensate as well.

Senator SIEWERT—That is in addition?

Mr Squire—In addition to oil.

Senator SIEWERT—Is it possible for you to table the basis on which those figures were calculated?

Mr Squire—We should be able to provide you information concerning the testing of that well when it was drilled as a production well.

Senator SIEWERT—That would be much appreciated, if you could.

Answer:

The Montara H1 ST1 well had not been tested for production at the time of the uncontrolled release, nor was any drilling being undertaken on the well.

However there were three exploration wells drilled at Montara, which were drilled in different locations to the Montara wellhead platform. Two of these exploration wells had production tests undertaken. Montara-1 (drilled in 1988) flowed oil at a maximum rate of approximately 5,700 barrels per day while Montara-3 (drilled in 2002) flowed oil at a maximum rate of approximately 5,000 barrels per day.