

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates
20 October 2010

Question: SR13
Topic: Naturaliste Plateau
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The Naturaliste Plateau was the only nomination for release of acreage for oil and gas exploration not nominated by industry? Why did Geoscience Australia nominate the area?

Answer:

The Naturaliste Plateau region contains the western and eastern parts of the Mentelle Basin. Following preliminary studies in 2002, and the acquisition of new seismic data over the Basin in 2004 and 2008-09, as part of Geoscience Australia's New Petroleum and Offshore Energy Security Programs, the Mentelle Basin was included in a portfolio of frontier offshore basins for assessment in preparation for Acreage Release.

These programs are developed following consultation with industry. The pre-competitive data and information from Geoscience Australia's studies underpinned the acreage release in the Mentelle.