

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

Question: SR4
Topic: WA Response to NOPSA Inquiry
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Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT—I have another question on a different topic. It is with regard to the offshore petroleum safety regulatory inquiry reports. One is entitled *Offshore petroleum safety regulation: better practice and the effectiveness of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority*, NOPSA; the other is *Offshore petroleum safety regulation: marine issues* and the 2008 review of NOPSA's operational activities. What steps are being undertaken to implement recommendations in these reports, both in terms of what NOPSA is doing and indeed the department?

Mr Squire—The Minister released his final response to those various reports at the South East Asian Australia Offshore Conference on 23 September. There are a significant number of those recommendations which relate to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority, or NOPSA. NOPSA has provided the Minister some advice in terms of how it intends to respond to those particular recommendations. NOPSA is due to report to the minister by the end of this year on progress in implementing those recommendations.

Senator PRATT—You received responses to the government's draft response, as I understand it. I am interested to know where the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum is up to.

Mr Squire—I am sorry, Senator. I do not quite follow your question.

Senator PRATT—I am interested in the nature of their response, but you are welcome to take that on notice. As I understand it, NOPSA has said that there are about 28 matters related to the authority that it is responsible for and that it is going to report progress at the end of this year; is that correct?

Mr Squire—That is correct.

Answer:

Submissions were received on a confidential basis. However, the Australian Government's response to the offshore petroleum safety regulatory inquiry reports takes account of all the views expressed in submissions received. The West Australian Government's views regarding regulatory reform are well known. See for example http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7105_11318.aspx; http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7105_11437.aspx; http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7105_11262.aspx.