

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR21

Topic: Recording of Whale Strikes on the Wheatstone Project

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Are you going to require the Wheatstone oil platform record whale strikes, turtle strikes and dugong strikes?

Answer:

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) is not currently responsible for the environment regulations under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGSA).

As part of the implementation of National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA), various environmental aspects will be considered in establishing the requirements for the definition of a reportable incident, which will include matters of moderate to significant environmental impact.

The Regulations require an Operator to notify the Regulator of reportable and recordable incidents. Wheatstone will be subject to these requirements.

Current guidelines for the preparation and submission of an Environment Plan published by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism include additional reporting requirements of unplanned impact caused to a matter of national environmental significance during an activity (as per the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) eg listed migratory species that include whales, turtles and dugongs.

NOPSEMA will develop guidelines that will consider these and other requirements.