

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR3

Topic: Strikes of Marine Life during the Exploration/Development Process

Proof Hansard Page: 72

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: Okay, thank you. In terms of future practices or maybe it is a current practice as well when there are strikes, during the exploration process or during any of the development process, of marine mammals in particular, is that reported?

Ms Cutler: I would have to take that on notice because, currently, we are not responsible for the environment regulations under the OPGGSA. I cannot answer that level of detail.

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 the 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. 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*) e.g. listed migratory species.

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