

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SR10

Topic: Number of nominations for acreage release

Proof Hansard Page: 20

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. I may have to come back with questions on notice once I have seen the information that has been taken on notice. Can I go to the process for this year. As I understand from the discussion that we had last estimates, nominations closed at the end of August and I am wondering how many nominations Geoscience Australia made to the process and how many overall you received.

Dr Pigram: I am not sure I can tell you exactly how many we nominated. Let me just check with my colleagues.

Dr J Johnson: Geoscience Australia nominated one area: the Sorell Basin.

Senator SIEWERT: I will ask, but I do not know if I will get an answer. Can I ask which area that was?

Dr J Johnson: In the Sorell Basin, west of Tasmania.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. How many were received?

Mr Squire: I would like to take that question on notice and provide the exact number. From my recollection, it is in the order of 50 to 60 nominations. But I would like to take that one on notice to be 100 per cent sure.

Answer:

Stakeholders nominated over 40 areas for consideration in the 2012 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release (acreage release), including the Sorell Basin area nominated by Geoscience Australia (GA).

Stakeholders nominated 64 areas for consideration in the 2013 acreage release, including two areas nominated by GA.