

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates
18 October 2012

Question: SR11
Topic: Surrendered acreage releases
Proof Hansard Page: 21

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: Have there been any areas over the last period of time where you have had leases surrendered?

Mr Squire: Yes. Can I clarify your question. Are you seeking clarification as to whether any of the areas nominated for 2013 have been subject to previous releases? Again that is a difficult question for me to answer at this stage because we have not finalised the short list.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. That is interesting to know but if you could also take it on notice. Also: have there been any that have been not put on the list yet, renominated, but have been surrendered? Does that make sense?

Mr Squire: Sorry, I am lost.

Senator SIEWERT: Has there been any acreage-that anybody has taken up that they have in 2013 from the past-that they have now surrendered?

Mr Squire: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Can you tell us which areas they were?

Mr Squire: I will take that on notice. For clarity, what time period are you seeking the information from?

Senator SIEWERT: For completeness, can you give me the last three years?

Mr Squire: Certainly.

Answer:

The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism received 64 nominations from stakeholders for areas to consider in the 2013 Offshore Petroleum Exploration Acreage Release (acreage release). While the shortlist is yet to be finalised, to date the 2013 acreage release comprises 31 proposed areas. Of the 31 areas, 29 have been included in past acreage releases, with an exploration permit consequently granted over 25 of these areas. The proposed list for the 2013 acreage release includes two areas that have not previously been part of an acreage release.

The 2012 acreage release consisted of 27 areas. Of the 27 areas, 24 had been included in previous acreage releases, with an exploration permit consequently granted over 21 of these areas. The 2012 acreage release included three areas that had not previously been part of an acreage release.

The 2011 acreage release consisted of 29 areas. Of the 29 areas, 13 had been included in previous acreage releases, with an exploration permit consequently granted over 12 of these areas. The 2011 acreage release included 16 areas that had not previously been part of an acreage release.