

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Harvey Ridge

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 21 November 2013, page 96)

QUESTION No.: SI-23

Senator PRATT: What is the status of that particular work?

Dr Johnson: The main activity to date in the Harvey work has been the successful drilling of a well down to a depth that I would have to provide on notice. Essentially, that was a well to a potential reservoir. The reservoir rocks were deemed to be suitable. There has also been some seismic work done. But if you want an outcome in terms of the prospect for long-term storage, I would have to take that on notice.

Senator PRATT: That would be terrific.

ANSWER

The Harvey 1 stratigraphic well was completed in March 2012 to a depth of 2945 metres to examine the potential for carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Lesueur Sandstone of the southern Perth Basin. Approximately 100km of 2D seismic data was acquired prior to drilling to enable the well to be sited in the optimum location. Research outcomes from the data and core samples collected from the Harvey 1 well confirm the potential of the Lesueur Sandstone as a CO₂ reservoir and support additional research to define the long-term storage potential of the area.

Further work to define the potential for CCS in the southern Perth Basin will be undertaken by the South West Hub Flagships Project, which is a government-industry partnership between the Australian Government, the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum, Griffin Energy, Verve Energy, BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina, Wesfarmers Premier Coal, Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Alcoa Australia.