

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Sorell Basin off Tasmania

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

QUESTION No.: SI-24

CHAIR: In terms of your program, is there any interest in the Sorell Basin off Tasmania?

Dr Pigram: I thought you might ask me that. It was released some time ago and I am not sure what the response has been. Can I take it on notice?

CHAIR: Yes, that is fine; take it on notice.

ANSWER

Following Acreage Releases in 2001, 2003 and 2006, Santos and their various joint venture partners held considerable acreage in the Sorell Basin, operating the permits T/32P, T/33P, T/36P and T/48P. Santos acquired 2D seismic data and reprocessed existing seismic data in these permits, and acquired one 3D seismic survey in the Strahan Sub-basin (T/36P). In 2008, Santos drilled the Jarver-1 well in permit T/33P, however the well was dry. By mid-2010, all of the Santos permits had been relinquished with the exception of T/32P, where the Santos share was taken over by Perenco (SE Australia) Pty Ltd in 2010. In 2011, Perenco acquired the 1,000 km² Wolseley 3D seismic survey in T/32P, the only permit currently operating in the Sorell Basin.

In 2004, an area (T04-5) was released in the southern Sorell Basin (Port Davey Sub-basin); however, no bids were received.

In 2012, the Australian Government released the large Release Area T12-2 in the northern Sorell Basin, following a Geoscience Australia study of the prospectivity of the basin. T12-2 lies to the southeast of T/32P and includes areas previously covered by the T/33P, T/48P and T/36P permits. Bids for this area closed 9 May 2013. No bids were received so Release Area T12-2 was re-released in October 2013; closing date for bids is 22 May 2014.

Release Area T12-1 in the adjacent Otway Basin was granted to 3D Oil as permit T/49-P on 17 June 2013. The guaranteed work program includes acquisition of 3D seismic; the secondary program includes two wells, in years 4 and 6. It's not in the Sorell Basin but it is in offshore Tasmania.