

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FUEL & ENERGY

Questions on Notice

Canberra, 7 April 2010

JAQUES, Dr Alan Lynton, Chief Scientist, Geoscience Australia

QoN No.	Proof Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	Status
	15	Cormann	CHAIR—Fair point. Can I ask—and again tell me if you cannot answer this—you mentioned we have 140 years of production of uranium, given current— Dr Jaques—Current production. CHAIR—And current export trends? Dr Jaques—Current resources against current production. Both are growing and that number is expected to change in the future. Clearly it is adequate for exports for years to come. CHAIR—This is a hypothetical question, but in the context of energy security moving forward I think it is an important question and you might be able to answer it. If Australia did have nuclear as part of its domestic energy mix, how many years of resource would we have available to us? Dr Jaques—I could not comment, Senator. CHAIR—And nobody has done any of that work in the context of— Dr Jaques—I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall whether the uranium energy report included that.	

			ANSWER Australia's current economic demonstrated resources of uranium are adequate for about 140 years of production at current levels. All current production is exported. Approximately 200 tonnes of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) is required to produce fuel for a single 1000 MWe nuclear reactor for a year. The total uranium demand depends on the number, type and size of reactors. Australia's large uranium resource base is adequate to support both continued exports and potential domestic use. NB: MWe: the electric output of a power plant in megawatt	
--	--	--	---	--