

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

16 AUG 2011

Tuesday, 21 June 2011

4244. Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for State Development.

On Wednesday, 6 April 2011, employees of the Department of State Development (DSD) attended and chaired Meeting 5 of the Browse Marine Users Working Group at the Cable Beach Club resort. At the meeting the DSD employees presented to the audience figures on the numbers of submissions received on the Browse LNG strategic assessment report (SAR). DSD informed the audience that there had been, "247 electronic submissions; 90 hard copy submissions; three pro-forma submissions; Total ~340 submissions ranging from 10,000 signatures to individual comments".

(1) Does the Minister agree that the total number of public submissions on the SAR is "~340"?

(2) Exactly how many individually signed pro-forma submissions did the SAR receive?

(3) Exactly how many of the individually signed pro-forma submissions had additional personal written comments included?

(4) If a member of the public in good faith signs a pro-forma submission and presents that to the Government in the course of a statutory public comment process, is that considered by the Government to be a valid individual submission?

(5) If no to (4), why not?

(6) If a member of the public in good faith signs a pro-forma submission and includes their own additional personal comment with that submission, is that considered by the Government to be a valid individual submission?

(7) If no to (6), why not?

(8) If individually signed pro-forma submissions are not considered valid submissions by the Government, will the Minister advise all Government agencies to place written statements to that effect in all materials released for public comment, and on all Government websites?

(9) If no to (8), why not?

(10) If individually signed pro-forma submissions that also include additional personal comments are not considered valid submissions by the Government, will the Minister advise all Government agencies to place written statements to that effect in all materials released for public comment, and on all Government websites?

(11) If no to (10), why not?

(12) In light of the above, exactly how many individual public submissions were received on the Browse LNG strategic assessment report?

(13) Will the Minister advise the Department to amend its public statements accordingly and inform the next meeting of the Browse Marine Users Working Group that the earlier figures presented were incorrect?

(14) If no to (10), why not?

Answer

Department of State Development advises:

(1-14) Over 11,000 submissions were received during the public review process for the Browse LNG Precinct Strategic Assessment Report.

All submissions received have been comprehensively analysed.

Details of submissions received and consideration of issues raised will form part of the State's further report to the EPA and SEWPAC as part of the project approval process. This report will be made public at that time.

