

12 JUN 2012

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

Thursday, 3 May 2012

5551. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to the Barrow Island Act 2003, Chevron Gorgon developments and WA Oil production facilities on Barrow Island, and I ask --

- (1) Was the WA Oil gravel pit partially rehabilitated?
- (2) If yes to (1), when did this occur?
- (3) If yes to (1), how much of the area was rehabilitated?
- (4) What was the size of the WA Oil gravel pit during its operation?
- (5) What was the size of the un-rehabilitated area after partial rehabilitation?
- (6) What is the current size of the WA Oil gravel pit?
- (7) What is the current use of the WA Oil gravel pit?
- (8) Is the WA Oil gravel pit currently being used as lay down area by the Gorgon project?
- (9) If yes to (8), what is the area, in hectares, being used as a laydown area for the Gorgon Project?
- (10) What has happened to the stockpiles of gravel that were in the WA Oil gravel pit, where are they now located?
- (11) Was environmental approval given for the relocation of these stockpiles of gravel to their new locations?
- (12) Is the use of the WA Oil gravel pit by the Gorgon Project included in its commitment to limit the size of their development as prescribed in the Barrow Island Act 2003?
- (13) What management programs are in place to ensure the retention of the relocated gravel piles?
- (14) Is the relocation of the gravel piles considered part of the WA Oil project or part

of the Gorgon Project?

Answer

- (1) Yes, a section of the WA Oil gravel pit had been partially rehabilitated. The rehabilitation was not entirely successful due to drainage issues and inconsistency of the natural fall of the land. Consequently, the gravel pit required clearing, filling and grading to meet rehabilitation objectives outlined in the rehabilitation plan approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum in 2011.
- (2) Rehabilitation activities took place in 1998 and 2007.
- (3) 3.92 hectares was subject to rehabilitation works with 2.22 hectares being successfully rehabilitated and 1.70 hectares being unsuccessful.
- (4) 7.17 hectares.
- (5) 3.25 hectares.
- (6) 7.17 hectares.
- (7)-(8) The pit is currently being partially filled as part of a staged approach to rehabilitation. A portion of the site is also being used as a laydown area for the Gorgon project. Under Section 91 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, Licence 00043/2010_1_58, the Gorgon project has tenure over previously cleared areas of the WA Oil gravel pit and laydown is an approved use.
- (9) The area approved for Gorgon project laydown is 4.95 hectares.
- (10) The gravel stockpiles have been moved to WA Oil lease sites elsewhere on Barrow Island, where the material is being utilised for the construction of new well pads and road maintenance.
- (11) Yes, the removal and use of gravel is managed under the Barrow Island Joint Venture Environmental Management Program for the WA Oil operations, which has been approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- (12) Yes, the Gorgon Joint Venturers committed to use previously disturbed areas such as the WA Oil gravel pit to limit the Gorgon project's footprint.
- (13) The removal and use of gravel is managed under the Barrow Island Joint Venture Environmental Management Program for the WA Oil operations, which has been approved by the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- (14) The relocated gravel aggregate is being used for WA Oil operations.

