

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE
(Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday 28 November 2013

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

With regard to Buru Energy's plans to exploit oil and gas reserves (including 'tight' gas) in Western Australia, especially in the Canning Superbasin, I ask:

1. How many fracking operations has Buru undertaken in the State and at which wells did this take place?
2. To what depth were the wells drilled and, if the operation include horizontal drilling, in which direction(s) and at what distance(s) did this occur?
3. How much water and which chemicals (and in what quantities) were used in each fracking operation, including materials to ensure fissures remained open?
4. How much water was recovered from each fracking operation and where was it discarded?
5. Was this water tested and will the Minister table the results?
6. Is the Minister aware that dead fauna have been found in or near Buru dams or waste water ponds and will he explain what caused these deaths?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises:

1. Buru Energy Limited (Buru), as operator has undertaken one 'fracking operation' in Western Australia to date. Buru hydraulically fractured Yulleroo 2 in the Canning Basin in 2010 (which was originally drilled by Arc Energy Limited in 2008).
2. This information is available from the Department of Mines and Petroleum's website. Yulleroo 2 is a vertical well drilled to 3730 metres; to date horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracturing has not been used in Western Australia.
3. Buru has made available through its website a list of chemicals and water volumes approved for Yulleroo 2 hydraulic fracturing.

4. The flowback water was evaporated in lined evaporation ponds after treatment. Flowback was 6815 barrels, 30 per cent of the water volume used for the Yulleroo 2 hydraulic fracturing treatment.
5. Yes the flowback was tested by the operator. Flowback analysis indicated that salinity was high, radiation levels were low and did not exceed subsurface water background levels.
6. No. There have been no fauna deaths reported to DMP at the Yulleroo 2 site.

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