

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C132

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

Thursday, 27 February 2014

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

I refer to the response to my Question Without Notice (of which some notice has been given) dated 18 February 2014 from the Minister for Environment about the re-assessment of the proposed Browse Liquefied Natural Gas precinct by Delegation No.34, in particular 2. "*The strategic proposal being assessed is that referred to the Environmental Protection Authority by the Minister for State Development by letter dated 25 March 2008, unless otherwise changed in accordance with section 43A of the Act*", and I ask:

1. Is the strategic proposal being assessed by the three delegates the same as that referred to the EPA by the Minister for State Development by letter dated 25 March 2008?
2. Have any changes been made to the strategic proposal referred by the Minister for State Development and have these been made in accordance with Section 43A of the Act?
3. If yes to 2, what are these changes? Please provide precise details.
4. Given that the EPA has refused to assess imminent and highly controversial hydraulic fracturing projects in the Kimberley, will the Minister now direct the EPA to assess those proposals rather than wasting its resources and the public's time on assessing an LNG precinct that has no user?

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

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response:

1. Yes, unless changes are made pursuant to Section 43A of the Act.
2. No.
3. Not Applicable.
4. As appeals against the Environmental Protection Authority's decision not to assess the Laurel Formation Tight Gas Pilot Exploration Program in the Kimberley are currently being investigated, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on this matter.

AJ