

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

Tuesday, 9 September 2014

1505. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Water.

I refer to Buru Energy's proposed fracking program in the Canning Basin, and I ask:

(a) has the Department of Water reviewed Buru Energy's hydrogeological reports for the Yulleroo, Asgard and Valhalla wells:

(i) if yes to (a), will the Minister please table the results; and

(ii) if no to (a), why not;

(b) has the Department of Water expressed any concerns to other government departments, or the company, regarding the hydrogeological reports:

(i) if yes to (b), what is the nature of these concerns;

(c) according to Department of Water estimates, how long will groundwater take to flow from the Yulleroo 3 and Yulleroo 4 wells to Roebuck Bay:

(i) what does the department base these estimates on and how reliable is this data;

(d) has the Department of Water expressed any concerns about the distance between the groundwater aquifer and the fracking point, which in one instance is 600 metres:

(i) if yes to (d), what is the nature of these concerns; and

(e) will the Minister please table the advice and comments that have been provided by the Department of Water to the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Mines and Petroleum regarding the proposed Laurel Formation Tight Gas Pilot Exploration Program (TGS14):

(i) if no to (e), why not?

Answer

(a) Yes.

(i) No.

(ii) The Department of Water's advice was provided to the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) for consideration.

(b) No.

(i) Not applicable.

(c) The travel time is decades as a minimum but more likely centuries.

(i) These estimates are based on hydrogeological data. The Department is confident these estimates are reliable.

(d) No.

(i) Not applicable.

(e) No.

(i) The advice provided to the Environmental Protection Authority is available from the Authority as a published summary. The advice provided to the Department of Mines and Petroleum was provided for their consideration. The advice that DoW provided DMP is reflected in the environmental management measures outlined in Buru Energy's Laurel

Formation Tight Gas Stimulation Environment Plan summary. The summary is available from DMP.

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