

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 12 March 2019

C142. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to a media statement made by the Minister for Environment on 7th February 2019, announcing that Western Australia would be the first Australian jurisdiction to join the World Bank's Zero Routine Flaring by 2030 initiative, and ask:

1. Will the Minister table documents and correspondence pertaining to consultation with industry while formulating this policy announcement?
2. Does the new policy apply retrospectively to existing facilities, or will this only apply from now on?
3. What regulatory or legislative instruments will be used to apply the policy?
4. If the answer to (3) is none, how will the policy be implemented?
5. Given that the EPA policy on climate change has for a long time required that proponents undertake 'best practice measures' and 'all reasonable and practicable measures' to minimize carbon pollution, and that the WA Government has made commitments to ensuring that all unconventional gas projects are assessed by the EPA, what additional environmental benefit or protection will this new policy confer that would not have otherwise been a normal requirement under the EPA assessment process?

Answer

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

1. No.
2. The World Bank initiative applies to wells only, not facilities; and will apply to new wells in the first instance. The Government will work with industry to make every effort to end legacy flaring on existing wells into the future.
3. This will be enabled through regulations under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*; and the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*.
4. Not applicable.
5. The benefit of the policy is that world's best practice for routine flaring is applied to all gas projects with routine wellhead flaring and not just projects being considered by the Environmental Protection Authority


13/3/19