

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Tuesday, 12 March 2019**

**C143. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum**

Regarding the Finder Shales Environment Plan for the Helios-1/1H Exploration Wells on EP493 document and the Fracking Briefing from the Mines Department on 2018.12.07 found here: [https://robinchapple.com/sites/default/files/SummaryEP\\_EP493-ENV-PLN-1001-1A-Rev2.1.pdf](https://robinchapple.com/sites/default/files/SummaryEP_EP493-ENV-PLN-1001-1A-Rev2.1.pdf): and the comments at the briefing and the Finder Shales Environment Plan, and ask:

1. Does the government still stand by the view that this is a conventional gas well?
2. If yes to (1), why does Finder Shale identify that they will be using the fracking additive Nacol and the fracking sealant Fracseal?
3. If yes to (1), why does Finder Shale identify that they will be targeting a (non-conventional) shale formation reservoir and it is very unlikely that any significant volume of gas will be produced to surface during the drilling operations as it is of low permeability?
4. Will the Government still stand by the granting to Finder Shale as an incentive to drill in the Helios project given the Finder Shales Environment Plan for the Helios-1/1H Exploration Wells?

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**Answer**

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

1. The Environment Plan relates to an approval for an exploration well that involves only conventional drilling methods.
2. Finder Shale are not approved to use "Nacol". Fracseal (cellulose) is to prevent lost circulation; and is a common additive used in conventional oil and gas operations.
3. Finder Shale has made an application under the relevant legislation and the Government has assessed that application.
4. Finder Shale withdrew from the Round 18 Exploration Incentive Scheme co-funded drilling on the 22 January 2019.

  
13/3/19