

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

1825. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to statements made in the media at <https://www.communitynews.com.au/hills-gazette/news/mcgowan-lifts-wa-fracking-ban/> about fracking now being allowed in parts of Western Australia, and ask:

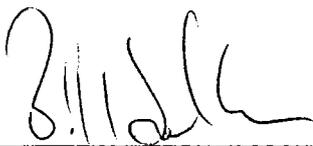
- (a) for the four projects that would likely get the go-ahead for fracking in Western Australia, what are these projects and where is their location;
- (b) what stage of development are each of these projects in;
- (c) have any of the proponents stated that they will put forward plans to develop production facilities;
- (d) if yes to (c), which proponents have said they plan to develop production facilities;
- (e) will the Minister table any documentation relating to any proposal to develop production facilities for onshore gas;
- (f) if no to (e), why not;
- (g) have Traditional Owners been consulted on any of the four aforementioned proposals;
- (h) if no to (g), why not;
- (i) have Traditional Owners agreed to any of the four projects mentioned;
- (j) if no to (i), why has the Minister said they will likely go ahead;
- (k) have any landowners been consulted on any of the four aforementioned proposals;
- (l) if no to (k), why not;
- (m) do any of the four projects the Minister mentioned in the media have environmental approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, *Native Title Act 1993* or *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*;
- (n) I refer to the statement about the four projects that would likely get the go ahead, and given that no approvals have been granted, does the Minister accept that the statements made to the media about the four projects likely to get the go ahead were premature;
- (o) if no to (n), why not;
- (p) I refer to the quote "...it was hard to value the potential gas production and royalties from these projects as some of the estimates by the companies involved appeared over-optimistic.", and ask if the Government has done any modelling of production and/or royalties on the four projects mentioned as likely to go ahead;
- (q) if no to (p), why not;
- (r) has the Government done any modelling on what the oil price, which is an indicator of gas prices, would need to be for projects to be viable; and
- (s) if no to (r), why not?

Answer

- (a)-(d) The state government has accepted all of the recommendations of the report of the Independent Scientific Panel Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation in Western Australia 2018 and will lift the moratorium on existing petroleum titles.

To implement the recommendations and government policy decisions, an Implementation Plan is being developed. As part of this response, all exploration and development fracking projects will be assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority.

- (e) Details of any projects under consideration will be available through the Environmental Protection Authority assessment process.
- (f) Not applicable
- (g)-(j) As announced in the government's response to the Inquiry, the consent of Traditional Owners will be required before fracking production is allowed.
- (k)-(l) As announced in the government's response to the Inquiry, the consent of landowners will be required before fracking production is allowed.
- (m) As mentioned above in (a), all fracking projects will be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment.
- (n) No
- (o) The Minister's statement correctly reflects the complexity of resource development and titleholder's determination of viability.
- (p) No
- (q) As noted by the Minister, development scenarios based on industry estimates are difficult to value.
- (r) Not applicable
- (s) Whether any particular project is viable is determined by the holders of the titles.



MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM

18/3/19