

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 2 April 2019

C276. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to industrial operations on the Burrup during the three stages of alert issued during Cyclone Veronica, and ask:

1. Why did Pluto, the North West Shelf Venture and Yara Ammonia and Yara Technical Ammonia keep operating during all the alert stages of the Cyclone?
2. Given the explosive nature of the Yara Technical Ammonia plant, why was this allowed to keep running during all alert stages of the Cyclone?
3. What procedures were in place, at each of these plants, when power was cut to the Burrup on Monday 25th March 2019?
4. Why were Pluto and the North West Shelf Venture flaring continuously during all three alert stages of the Cyclone?
5. Given the continuous flaring from Pluto and the North West Shelf Venture, what was being flared, and what were the CO₂e emissions for this period?

Answer

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

1. All these facilities were designed with the extreme weather conditions found in the Pilbara in mind. They all have comprehensive cyclone and emergency operating plans that deal with the circumstances experienced during Cyclone Veronica. These plans account for the various alert stages of a cyclone and changes in cyclone severity and include reducing on site personnel as well as restricting or limiting operations such that the site is ready for the conditions and is in the safest practicable state.
2. It is of note that the Ammonium Nitrate produced at the Yarra Technical Ammonium Nitrate Plant is not an explosive. As previously mentioned, the facility has in place comprehensive cyclone and emergency plans and procedures to ensure that the plant is kept in the safest practicable state.
3. All the sites have their own internal primary and back-up power generation capabilities that provide their site with sufficient electrical power to meet their needs. None of the facilities listed take power from the external electricity grid.
4. As part of their restricted operations during a cyclone, production at Pluto and the North West Shelf Venture generally ceases and parts of the plant are depressurised and flared

in accordance with their cyclone response plan to ensure that the plant is in the safest practicable state.

5. Gas from the plants was being flared as part of their cyclone response plans. CO2 emissions from these plants is not reported to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.



2/4/19