

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Identified resources in the Bass Strait

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 109)

QUESTION No.: AI-40

Senator XENOPHON: Okay. What can you tell me about identified resources in the Bass Strait?

Dr Johnson: In Bass Strait, the identified gas resources are of the order of 10,000 petajoules. To put that into context, the identified resources Australia wide are around 279,000 petajoules. So it is a significant amount but, in the national context, relatively minor.

Senator XENOPHON: What do 10,000 petajoules translate to? How much does industry use? How much does a power station use, for instance, on an annual basis?

Dr Johnson: Annual production in Australia is around 3,000 petajoules and that will include the amounts that are consumed domestically and the export amounts.

Senator XENOPHON: What is domestic? What would the domestic amount be? Most of it is exported—is that right?

Dr Johnson: To give you an accurate answer, I would need to take that on notice. Broadly speaking, 50 per cent is consumed domestically at the moment and 50 per cent exported. That ratio will change because of course we are on an expanding export trajectory.

ANSWER

The Bass Strait, which contains the offshore parts of the Gippsland, Otway and Bass Basins, accounts for about 5 per cent of Australian total identified conventional gas resources and about 25 per cent of the historical national gas production (Table 1). In 2014, production from Bass Strait provided approximately 14 per cent of the national total.

Data provided by the Office of the Chief Economist in the Resources and Energy Quarterly (December 2016) shows Australia produced 3200 PJ of natural gas in 2015-16. Of this 1950 PJ were exported as LNG (61 per cent of total gas production).

In 2016, Gas Power Generation (GPG) consumed 122 PJ of a total eastern gas market consumption of 1 595 PJ (AEMO National Gas Forecasting Report, December 2016).

A 250 MW gas-fired power generator at 40 per cent thermal efficiency requires 2.25 TJ/hr gas input at full capacity, which is 20 PJ in a full year.

Table 1: Identified gas resources in Bass Strait and in Australia as at the end of 2014

PRMS classification	Bass Strait			Australia		
	Remaining resources	Cumulative production	Annual production	Remaining resources	Cumulative production	Annual production
	Petajoules					
Reserves	5,643	11,259	313	123,241	45,460	2,288
Contingent Resources	4,581	0	0	156,578	0	0
Grand total	10,225	11,259	313	279,819	45,460	2,288