



Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2021-22  
Friday, 4 June 2021  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Economics Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 1.04pm.

The committee called:

- Geoscience Australia; Department of Industry, Science Energy and Resources;

Topics discussed by the committee included:

Geoscience Australia

- offshore resource extraction and production reporting and confidentiality;
- management of tenements across state and territory boundaries; and
- reporting on status of petroleum wells.

Department of Industry, Science Energy and Resources

*Outcome 1 – Programs 1.3*

- coal exports to China and impacts of reductions;
- Indian thermal coal imports;
- Critical Mineral Facilitation Office;
  - organisation, funding, initiatives and work program;
  - progress on ethical certification, hubs and precincts, and other initiatives;
  - role in growing Australian economic growth; and
  - identifying capability gaps in critical minerals industries.
- NOPTA / Offshore Resources branch;
  - production sites data and confidentiality;
  - optimal recovery from oil fields;
  - sunset clause and policy review; and
  - boundary negotiations between Australia and Indonesia, complicated by negotiations between Indonesia and East Timor.
- Northern Endeavour;
  - commercial proposals received by taskforce;
  - turnover of the Head of Division;
  - selecting Mr Walker for the Walker Review;
  - Walker Review inquiring into UPS; and
  - engagement with industry about the levy.

*Outcome 1 – Programs 1.4*

- Office of Northern Australia;
  - Advisory Group on Northern Australia past and future arrangements, and work undertaken;
  - budget funding for initiatives recommended by the Advisory Group and other Budget funding measures;
  - current Northern Australian initiatives; and
  - Arrangements for and work of the Ministerial Forum on Northern Australia and Northern Australia Indigenous Reference Group.

- NAIF

Tabled document No. 5 – NAIF – Opening Statement

- projects that have reached the investment decision stage;
- fund release, drawing down;
- Chair – recruitment, salary; and
- decision of the Minister to veto a loan approved by the NAIF board for energy project in far north Queensland (the Kaban Wind farm).

NOPSEMA

- who the regulator is of the Northern Endeavour;
- inspections on the Northern Endeavour; and
- certification of the vessel from Lloyds.

The committee adjourned.