

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Inquiry into the Offshore Petroleum (Laminaria and Corallina Decommissioning Cost Recovery Levy) Bill 2021 [Provisions] and Treasury Laws Amendment (Laminaria and Corallina Decommissioning Cost Recovery Levy) Bill 2021 [Provisions]

08 November 2021

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Rights of workers on an oil and gas facility

REFERENCE: Written

QUESTION No.: 14

Under the Schedule 3 of the OPGGS Act, workers on an oil and gas facility can be elected to be Health and Safety Representatives, with various powers, including the right to carry out inspections, request an inspection, issue a Provisional Improvement Notice, and initiate emergency 'stop-work' procedures. What assessment has been made about how the 'emulated regulatory framework with NOPSEMA' described in the hearing covers the rights for workers listed above? Can you confirm that workers on the Northern Endeavour or future contractors paid for with levy funds do not have those rights?

ANSWER

Roles equivalent to Health and Safety Representatives are elected by the workforce on the Northern Endeavour. People in these roles have the capacity to raise issues with NOPSEMA under normal channels should any matters of concern be raised by the workforce. All reports made to NOPSEMA on board facilities are investigated and would be passed to the Department for visibility where appropriate.