



EMPIRE ENERGY GROUP LIMITED

Level 19, 20 Bond Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
T:
F:

6 August 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin

Following our appearance before the Committee's hearings on the above inquiry on Wednesday 28 July 2021 we write to address questions taken on notice.

Direct references below are made to the Proof Committee Hansard of the hearings.

Grant agreement negotiations

In respect of grant agreements in relation to the Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program, the Chair said "we would be interested in knowing what those draft milestones and key elements of the agreement are." (Hansard page 44.)

The sample application form as provided by the AusIndustry (attached as "*Sample application Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program.pdf*") is the framework under which Empire applied. This framework encompasses all the key elements of the agreement that would need to be struck between a successful applicant and the Government.

As the agreement has not yet been finalized we cannot yet describe its key elements, but a sample agreement for this program is attached as *Sample Standard grant agreement Beetaloo Cooperative Drilling Program.pdf*

Visit to Carpentaria-1 well site

Various questions arose in relation to a visit to our Carpentaria-1 well site on Friday 16 October 2020 by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and other stakeholders.

On page 47 of the Hansard proof, in response to Senator McCarthy, we took questions on notice relating to a Country Liberal Party fundraising dinner held in Darwin on 15 October 2020.

Empire Energy did attend this dinner but did not organise it.

There was some evident confusion in Senators' questions about dinners adjacent to the visit to our well site. To be clear, the CLP dinner on 15 October was not connected to our site visit in any way.

Senator McCarthy asked whether our invitation for the Minister to visit our well site referenced the CLP dinner. While we were clearly aware the dinner was taking place, it was not referenced in our invitation to the minister.

On the evening of 16 October, after the site visit, a dinner was held in Darwin for participants on the site visit. That dinner was paid for by Empire Energy, just as we provided breakfast and lunch to participants earlier that day.

The Chair requested on page 48 of the Hansard proof a list of all people who were on the plane flight to our drilling site on 16 October 2020. That list is attached as "Empire Energy Carpentaria-1 guest list (October 2020)."

On page 49 of the Hansard proof, the Chair also requested the name of the employee of Elphinstone Group who participated in a subsequent visit to the well site. It was Mr Randall Wagner, Elphinstone's Group Financial Accountant.

Environmental, social and governance policy

On page 50 of the Hansard proof, I referenced that our Board has established a sustainability road map and is working on an ESG (environmental, social, and governance) policy. The sustainability road map is a framework for reporting to the board on our ESG performance. We will be happy to provide a copy of the ESG policy when it is complete and has been adopted by the Board as company policy.

Should you have any queries in relation to this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me on _____ or _____

Yours sincerely,

Alex Underwood
Managing Director
Empire Energy Group