

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: Taxpayer view of payment to Woodside

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 08 November 2021, Page 31)

QUESTION No.: 5

Senator Cox: Can you see how the taxpayer might be disgusted—that's the word that has been used—that they effectively paid Woodside and that they have profited from abandoning the Northern Endeavour well?

Mr Gaddes: Could you repeat the question? It sounds like you're asking for an opinion.

Senator COX: No, it's a question. Can you see how the taxpayer might be disgusted with the procurement process—

CHAIR: Senator Cox, of course you are entitled to ask questions, but these witnesses shouldn't be placed in a position where they need to comment on government policy. We just need to be mindful of that—not placing them in position where they're the ones who have to account for government policy.

Senator COX: I'm happy to put that on notice.

ANSWER

It would not be appropriate for the Department to offer an opinion on this matter.