

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources  
**Inquiry into Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment**  
**(Safety and Other Measures) Bill 2024 [Provisions]**  
14 March 2024

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**TOPIC:** Questions concerning the Bill Part 2

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Dorinda Cox

**QUESTION No.: 3**

1. Which department did the proposal to bypass EPBC approval originate from?
2. Was NIAA consulted about this bill at all?
3. When exactly did Schedule 2 Part 2 of this bill get inserted?
4. How many gas companies were consulted about this change?
5. Were the Japanese and South Korean Governments engaged too?
6. The Minister has said she would look at ‘sensible amendments’, has the Department been working on any amendments?
7. It has become clear that this change is meeting one of the Coalitions four demands to pass PRRT legislation, is the department working on the removing the amendment to prevent Ministerial grants under the Industrial Research and Development Act to fund future coal and gas projects?

**ANSWER**

The Offshore Oil and Gas Safety Review discussion paper was released for public comment in June 2019.

Following analysis of the comments on the discussion paper a draft policy framework was published for public consultation in August 2020.

The Department consulted extensively with industry, unions, the offshore workforce, the Safety Stakeholder Group and across the Australian and state and territory governments throughout the review.

The Department began working on the proposal for Part 2 of the Bill in September 2023.

There was no proposal to bypass the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Legislation amending Petroleum Resource Rent Tax arrangements passed the Senate on 16 May 2024.