

**Senate Environment and Communications References Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
**Inquiry into Oil and gas exploration and production in the Beetaloo Basin**  
02 August 2021

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

**TOPIC:** QoN 9. Empire and Northern Territory Government approval

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 02 August 2021, Page 32)

**QUESTION No.: 9**

Senator McCARTHY: So when did Empire apply to the Northern Territory government for approval for these drilling operations?

Mr Quinn: Approvals of the NT government are not something that I have in front of me today in terms of the dates. However, we do consult with the Northern Territory government around the approvals process and where various applications are up to.

Senator McCARTHY: What was the response from the Northern Territory government?

Mr Quinn: That Empire was essentially where they needed to be in that process.

Senator McCARTHY: On what date did that conversation occur?

Mr Trotman: I think we will again take that one on notice, Senator. I think we should be able to provide you with that, but we just don't have that information with us, given that the Northern Territory government is the key decision-maker in relation to that approval.

**ANSWER**

The initial conversation took place on 24 May 2021, with a subsequent conversation on 1 June 2021.