

**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 13. Pepper inquiry

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 02 August 2021, Page 34)

**QUESTION No.: 13**

Senator McCARTHY: This may be a question for the department of environment and water; I'll ask it and see how we go. Recommendation 9.8 of the Pepper inquiry recommended that the NT and the federal government seek to ensure there is no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions from any onshore shale gas produced in the NT. Is it the department's view that Beetaloo projects will have a net increase in the NT's greenhouse gas emissions?

Ms Bennett: I think some of those matters fall within the scope of the court proceedings. I would need to take on notice what information or what advice we can provide on that.

Mr Trotman: As I said in my opening statement, the government has said it will work with the NT government to manage greenhouse gas emissions from onshore shale gas development in the Northern Territory. We can come back to you with more clear advice, if we're allowed to take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

The Northern Territory government has accepted the recommendations from the Pepper Inquiry to manage emissions in Australia from onshore shale gas developments.

Estimating the exact future emissions at this stage is difficult given the current uncertainty about the amount of gas in place and its recoverability.

Australia is on track to meet and beat its 2030 target of 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels. The most recent publicly available forecasts incorporate an allowance for increased LNG exports in the 2020s.

China, India and south-east Asia are forecast to be the largest growth markets of LNG in Asia. One-fifth of Japan's energy needs are expected to be supplied by LNG in 2030, and under South Korea's long term electricity plan around one-fifth of electricity is predicted to be generated using LNG in 2030. Australia's LNG has the potential to lower emissions in these customer countries by providing an alternative to higher emissions fuels.