

Senate Standing Committee on Economics  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Treasury Portfolio

**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]**

**Division:** Corporate and International Tax Division  
**Topic:** Decommissioning definition  
**Reference:** Spoken (8 November 2021)  
**Senator:** Anthony Chisholm

**Question:**

Senator CHISHOLM: Treasury published an exposure draft of the bills in September, and the definition of 'decommissioning' included the phrase 'removal of subsea infrastructure'. In the version before parliament, this has been updated to read 'removal or any other treatment'. When was this added and why?

Mr Winckler: The final drafting of the bill was undertaken in consultation with affected Australian government agencies, including the Northern Endeavour Taskforce. The decision around using the final definition that is in the bills today reflects the broad range of costs that the Commonwealth might incur and doesn't seek, in itself, to impose any requirements as to how that decommissioning might be undertaken. As I say, that decision was taken from an operation of levy perspective as opposed to what the physical work requirements might be on the decommissioning process.

Senator CHISHOLM: Who asked for that specific change? Mr Winckler: I'll have to confirm, if I may, but my recollection is that that request was via the department of industry, in the sense of being a technical definition around the activities they were undertaking. But I might have to take that on notice to confirm that.

Senator CHISHOLM: They said they didn't know anything about it and said to put it to Treasury.

Mr Winckler: Okay, I'll take on notice as to where that wording came from.

**Answer:**

The change referred to in the question was based on advice received from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources