

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

28 May 2012

Question: BR31

Topic: Landslides in the Grampians National Park

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

Following the more than 190 landslides throughout the Grampians National Park that were triggered by the January 2011 floods, the Northern Grampians Shire Council developed some landslide guidelines for which they were recently recognised at the 2012 National Awards for Local Government.

However the Shire had to cover the unexpected and expensive geotech.

1. (a) Does Geoscience Australia have any geotech data available for its own use?
 - (b) If so, what exists?
 - (c) Can this information be shared when necessary?
 - (d) With whom and for what reason?
2. Could Geoscience Australia partner with Councils or other organisations to help in situations such as this one?

Answer:

- 1(a) Such data is primarily the responsibility of State agencies, in this case the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Geoscience Australia holds some broadly relevant geotechnical data, related primarily to seismic cone penetration testing undertaken for earthquake hazard assessment purposes (rather than landslide susceptibility) in the Newcastle and Perth Cities Projectsⁱ.

- (b-d) This information is able to be shared (as public data), and if a request were made, Geoscience Australia would be able to provide a digital form of this data.
2. The *Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987*, and similar legislation in other states, detail that the state government has the responsibility to manage natural hazard risks. This responsibility is often devolved to the council level for detailed work. Historically, Geoscience Australia has partnered with State Governments to undertake natural hazard risk assessments such as the Newcastle and Perth Cities Projects mentioned above. Any new work of this nature would need to be considered in light of Geoscience Australia's priorities and an appropriate cost model for the work would need to be applied.

ⁱ The Newcastle and Perth Cities Projects, completed in 2002 and 2005 respectively, provided authoritative knowledge on the risks from the sudden onset of natural disasters in these Australian cities. These projects were undertaken in collaboration with local and state authorities and funded from Geoscience Australia appropriation.