

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000008

**OUTCOME:** 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

**Topic:** Coal Seam Gas

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 121, 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Rhiannon, Lee

**Question:**

Have the sections of work that NICNAS is responsible for been completed on time? How long have the delays been?

**Answer:**

The input to the national assessment of chemicals associated with coal seam gas extraction in Australia prepared by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme was provided within timeframes agreed with the Department of the Environment.

The first report was based on responses to a survey of companies involved in coal seam gas extraction in Australia. This report took longer to complete than initially anticipated due to the additional time required to collect data from companies and negotiate with some companies on maintaining confidentiality of commercially sensitive information. Given these issues, the Department of the Environment agreed to an extension of time for provision of this and subsequent reports. The revised timelines were met.