

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

Ref No: SQ14-000627

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

**Topic:** Coal Seam Gas

**Type of Question:** Written Questions on Notice

**Senator:** Waters, Larissa

**Question:**

The assessment is also “developing models to predict the extent of fracture growth within the coal seams in different locations in Australia”

- a) What is unknown at this stage about fracture growth and possible risks associated with this?
- b) Is it correct to say that CSG projects approved to date have been approved without independent government information advising on the likely growth of fractures underground over time?

**Answer:**

- a) The research is investigating better methods for modelling and predicting fracture growth in Australian coal seams.
- b) Published, peer reviewed information was available to the Australian Government when the initial Coal Seam Gas projects were first approved.