

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

Ref No: SQ14-00634

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

**Topic:** Coal Seam Gas

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

**Senator:** Waters, Larissa

**Question:**

Are you familiar with the NSW Chief Scientist's recent reports on insurance and the CSG industry? [http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/44469/150530-CSG-Review-Report-on-Environmental-Risk-and-Insurance-Arrangements-FINAL.pdf](http://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/44469/150530-CSG-Review-Report-on-Environmental-Risk-and-Insurance-Arrangements-FINAL.pdf)

- a) One paper found that in NSW the CSG industry is under-insured, particularly against natural resource damage. In light of the environmental risks you're identifying in the assessment, what would you say could be the possible risks of this lack of insurance?
- b) Do you find it surprising that the state Government is not requiring insurance for NRM damage?
- c) Are you doing any cost assessment of trying to undo environmental or health impacts of CSG, caused by normal practises, or by an accident? Is anyone in Government doing these cost assessments?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

These are matters for the New South Wales Government.

c) No. A cost assessment is beyond the scope of the current National Assessment.