

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 25
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Science
Topic: Coal seam gas mining - water impacts and fugitive emissions
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 3 March 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

The controversy around CSG is not abating, can you outline in some detail the plans the department has to resolve the scientific challenges and multiple opinions over CSG mining in relation to both water impacts and fugitive emissions?

Answer:

This question, as it relates to the impacts of coal seam gas mining on water resources, was asked by Senator Singh and answered by Ms Milnes of the Office of Water Science, Department of the Environment at the Additional Estimates hearing on 23 February 2015 (refer to page 112 Hansard dated 23 February 2015).

With respect to fugitive emissions, the Department has been undertaking a program of review of emission measurement methods associated with unconventional gas operations in Australia since 2012. This included working with CSIRO on a field measurement program.

In the first phase of work the CSIRO collected equipment leakage measurements from 43 coal seam gas wells in Queensland and New South Wales. CSIRO's findings have been published in the report *Field Measurements of Fugitive Emissions from Equipment and Well Casings in Australian Coal Seam Gas Production Facilities*, available on the Department's website.

A second phase of collaborative work with CSIRO has commenced collecting Australia-specific field data measurements from the coal seam gas exploration and production chain. This work is expected to be released in late 2015.