

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

Question No: 162
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Science
Topic: CSG BORE WELL INTEGRITY
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

The SKM report states it was prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd and revised by the Department of the Environment following peer review.

- a. Who were the peer reviewers?
- b. Did the Department make changes that played down the risks from CSG bore well integrity identified in the report?
- c. Can you table the initial copy of the report provided by SKM to the Department, and advise which changes were made?

Answer:

- a. The peer reviewers were: John Henrich (Past President, National Groundwater Association, USA), and Don Scott (Managing Director, Pennington Scott). Comments were also received from New South Wales and South Australian state agency representatives.
- b. The Department made editorial changes to the report to correct typographical and grammatical errors, address peer review comments and achieve a suitable level of logic and coherence. Changes did not extend beyond these editorial matters.
- c. The initial draft of the report is not suitable for public release as it has not been through peer review or been edited to ensure a coherent flow of logic. Changes did not extend beyond editorial matters (see above).