

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

Question No: 196
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)
Topic: CSG Fugitive Emissions Report Phases 1 and 2
Hansard Page: 24
Question Date: 21 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: Do we know as yet a scope for the timing of phase 3?

Mr Archer: All I really have is advice from overseas that this has happened. We can seek to provide further details to you on notice. I just do not have the details here with me.

Senator WATERS: And there is no-one else with those details? Because I did talk to CSIRO about this and they think they have funding for phase 3, but they were not clear on what the scope was.

Mr Archer: Unfortunately, my inventory expert has been participating in these meetings internationally and is not here as a result. The best I can do is really to undertake to come back to you on notice.

Senator WATERS: I understand the IPCC things happen this week, but that should be independent of your consideration of the scope and timing of phase 3.

Mr Archer: No final decisions have been made on phase 3. We are still completing phase 2.

Senator WATERS: Can you confirm for me that, with phase 1 done and phase 2 almost done, we still have not looked at fugitives from water gathering and treatment infrastructure or from decommissioned wells?

Mr Archer: I would have to take that on notice to see exactly where we are up to on those issues.

Answer:

The timing and scope of the work to be conducted by CSIRO under phase 3 of the GISERA (Gas Industry Social Economic and Research Alliance) process is a matter for CSIRO and the Department of Science.

In relation to the scope of the Department's existing CSG work program, it is the case that the two projects conducted by CSIRO for the Department of Environment and Energy prioritised measurement of emissions from production systems and well completions and workovers over the collection of data in relation to fugitive emissions from water gathering and treatment infrastructure or from decommissioned wells.

It is the intention of the Department to build our understanding of these latter processes from estimations made by companies and reported under NGERs and through the application of IPCC Guidelines to update national inventory methods. Currently, decommissioned wells are not included within the mandatory scope of any country's national inventory, as no methods for decommissioned wells are provided in the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for the preparation of national inventories*. This gap will be addressed in the forthcoming update of the IPCC Guidelines, agreed at the 44th session of the IPCC, held 17-20 October 2016, and it is the intention of the Department to apply these new IPCC methods as they become available.