

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: NOPSEMA

TOPIC: NOPSEMA Transparency

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Wright

QUESTION No.: AI-43

NOPSEMA's latest newsletter highlights that enhancements to NOPSEMA's Environment Plan submissions and summaries web page will increase the accessibility and transparency of information about petroleum activities.

- a. What will these enhancements entail?
- b. On what basis are these enhancements being made?
- c. How is NOPSEMA assisting members of the public to engage in the public consultation stage more fully?
- d. Will the 12 months of consultation process under NOPSEMA be subject to review?

ANSWER

- a. Enhancements to the webpage to date have included an improved search function and the addition of filtering of activities by type, location, status and titleholder. Further improvements planned include a new subscription service which provides 'push' notifications based on consumer set criteria.
- b. Enhancements to this web page and others occur periodically as part of NOPSEMA continuous improvement processes. These changes followed specific stakeholder feedback on useability, information availability and requested features.
- c. NOPSEMA has published brochures, guidance notes, and information papers on its administration of the regulations and publically reports quarterly and annually on regulatory activities and titleholder performance. A comprehensive website and a quarterly newsletter also provide the latest information to the public. In addition, NOPSEMA conducted a series of information sessions in capital cities and regional areas across Australia to clarify how stakeholders can effectively participate in consultation on petroleum activities. The sessions were attended by interested stakeholders, including fishing and local government representatives.
- d. The terms of reference for the review of the endorsement of NOPSEMA's environmental authorisation process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) are available on the 'Environmental Management' page at nopsema.gov.au.

The review of the consultation requirements under the Offshore Petroleum Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 are not specifically included within this review. Furthermore, NOPSEMA's practises and procedures are continually under review and our advice processes are amended accordingly.