

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Prospectivity of Sorell Basin

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 111-112)

QUESTION No.: AI-42

Senator BUSHBY: The reason I was saying that is I have asked Dr Pigram on a number of occasions about the prospectivity of Sorell Basin and whether there has been any interest in exploring that, being a senator for Tasmania and Sorell Basin being off the west coast. I understand that it does have a degree of prospectivity that makes it suitable for exploration, but it does not seem to attract a lot of interest. I was wondering whether there had been any interest.

Dr Johnson: There has not been any recent work by Geoscience Australia in the Sorell Basin. We did have it as part of the acreage release package. I would have to check exactly, but it was approximately three years ago. There were no work bids such that no acreage was awarded. As to whether there have been any expressions of interest to GA, I am unaware of any but I would need to take that on notice and ask my colleagues.

ANSWER

Vacant acreage in the northern Sorell Basin was released in 2015 as Area T15-3. A total of five petroleum and five service provider companies requested data from the five geophysical surveys that intersect the T15-3 block. Area T15-3 did not receive a work program bid in 2015.