

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

AGENCY: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Gas resources in South Australia

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 113)

QUESTION No.: AI-43

Senator XENOPHON: Do you have a figure for the estimated gas resources in South Australia?

Dr Johnson: I would need to take that on notice because there would be some breakdown of analysis that would have to—

Senator Canavan: I think it is also important to note that some of these basins overlap. They do not follow state boundaries precisely. So, while we have been providing figures for Gippsland and Otway, I believe the Otway basin, at least, may straddle some of—

ANSWER

The total gas in conventional and unconventional reserves and resources for South Australia is 10 130 PJ (Table 1).

Identified conventional resources

There are 1 396 PJ of remaining conventional gas reserves in South Australia which can support about 20 years gas production at the 2014 production level. Over 1 800 PJ of contingent conventional gas resources provide a further base for gas development.

Identified unconventional resources

The sedimentary basins in South Australia have also significant potential for unconventional gas exploration and development, especially the Cooper Basin (part of which extends into Queensland). Over 6 000 PJ contingent tight gas resources have been booked.

Prospective unconventional resources

Preliminary assessment results on unconventional gas prospective resources carried out by Geoscience Australia have revealed the potential for about 64 000 PJ of gas to be discovered in the Cooper Basin. The onshore portion of the Otway Basin, which crosses the border of South Australia and Victoria, has an estimated potential of 8 800 PJ gas to be discovered.

State	Basin	Remaining Resources			Production	
		Conventional gas	Shale/Tight gas	Total	Cumulative	Annual
		Petajoules				
Reserves						
South Australia	Cooper/Eromanga	1,391		1,391	5,681	65
South Australia	Otway	5		5	72	0
Total Reserves		1,396		1,396	5,753	65
Contingent Resources						
South Australia	Cooper/Eromanga	1,853	6,881	8,734		

State	Basin	Remaining Resources			Production	
		Conventional gas	Shale/Tight gas	Total	Cumulative	Annual
		Petajoules				
South Australia	Otway	0	0	0		
Total Contingent Resources		1,853	6,881	8,734		
Total Reserves + Contingent Resources		3,249	6,881	10,130		
Prospective Resources						
South Australia/ Queensland	Cooper	993	63,800*	64,793		
South Australia/ Victoria	Otway	0	8,800*	8,800		
Total Prospective Resources		993	72,600	73,593		
Grand Total		4,242	79,481	83,723	5,753	65

Table 1: Gas resources statistics for South Australia. The conventional gas data is as at the end of 2014.

* = preliminary assessment by Geoscience Australia.