

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing  
22 October 2015

---

**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Offshore oil and gas jobs

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 119)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-48

**CHAIR:** Okay. I better send a memo! Did ministers impose any special conditions on BP's exploration permits in the Great Australian Bight?

**Mr Guyan:** Yes, indeed, they did. There were a number of conditions added to the title which go to technical matters related to the design and construction of the wells and, indeed, their final abandonment.

**CHAIR:** I am not sure whether this is within your remit—and tell me if I am going off the page. Are there any figures available on how many jobs the offshore oil and gas industry supports in Australia?

**Mr Guyan:** Sorry, I cannot answer that.

**Dr Kennedy:** There are those figures. I do not have them to hand but I certainly could provide them for you on notice.

**CHAIR:** Would you mind?

**Dr Kennedy:** No problem. The chief economist would have them. Unfortunately, we let him go. But we will—

**CHAIR:** No worries.

**ANSWER**

Oil and gas extraction in Australia (encompassing both onshore and offshore development activities, but excluding exploration) currently employs around 27,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

In the 2011 Census, 4 per cent of people employed in oil and gas extraction nominated their place of work as offshore, migratory or shipping.<sup>2</sup> This does not capture people who work onshore but are undertaking activities supporting offshore oil and gas projects.

---

<sup>1</sup> Four quarter average to August 2015. Source: ABS 6291.0.55.003 Table EQ06.

<sup>2</sup> Census (Place of Work) 2011. Notes: Migratory is used to code people who are in transit on long distance trains, buses, aircraft and long haul road transport vehicles on Census Night. Offshore is used to code people on oil rigs and drilling platforms etc. It is also used for expeditioners in the Australian Antarctic Territory. Shipping is used to code people who are on board vessels in Australian waters, in or between Australian ports on Census Night.