

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

**Question No:** 75  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Bureau of Meteorology  
**Topic:** Air quality monitoring by Woodside  
**Hansard Page:** 12  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Ludlam asked:**

Senator LUDLAM: In response to the questions that Senator Waters put to you, you indicated that you were aware that there is air quality monitoring equipment on site and Woodside do collect some data up there as a result of community pressure. Do you have access to that data or is that not in your remit?

Dr Vertessy: I do not think so. We can ask about that and if we do we will let you know, but I doubt it.

Senator LUDLAM: If that is an undertaking you can make, otherwise I feel like I am heading home empty-handed. The people there are suffering under quite extreme events of air pollution from time to time. If there is any follow-up you are able to make for us, that would be much appreciated.

**Answer:**

The Bureau confirms that it is not involved in the monitoring of air pollutants from the Woodside gas plant at Burrup, and does not have access to the data or any involvement in the site's operations.

The West Australian Department of Environment Regulation has the role of protecting and maintaining air quality in Western Australia. Information on the State Government's responsibilities in the Burrup can be found at: <http://www.der.wa.gov.au/our-work/programs/36-burrup-rock-art-monitoring-program>.

In summary, the West Australian Government has established an independent Working Group, reporting to the Minister for State Development, which oversees ongoing studies that are being conducted to establish whether exposure to air pollutants could affect the rock art.