

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: **BR-1**
Topic: **Appointments and Programs**
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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I refer to various questions taken on notice during the hearings 2 June to 5 June 2008.

Please find below further questions on notice.

1. What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-government organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2007:

Resources, Energy and Tourism

2. Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments:

Resources, Energy and Tourism

3. In relation to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:

a) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?

b) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?

c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?

4. Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website <http://www.alp.org.au/> constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios:

Resources, Energy and Tourism

If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?

Answer:

1. The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) advisory Board was appointed by Cabinet on 3 March 2008. The 7 members of the Board are Mr William Bloking (Chair), Mr Barry Adams, Mr Dale Bond, Ms Margret Donnan, Mr David Healy, Ms Susan Johnston and Mr Robert King. Appointments are for 1, 2 and 3 years. The NOPSA Board is appointed under section 150XO of the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967*. The role of the Board is to provide advice on policy and strategic matters to the Minister for Resources and Energy, Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, and the Chief Executive Officer of NOPSA.
2. There are no quangos within the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.
3. The Government has made various decisions, including in the Budget context, about the establishment of new programs, initiatives, and changes to existing programs. These are detailed in Portfolio Budget Statements, including for the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. There are no programs in the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism portfolio that are implemented or allocated differentially on the basis of Federal electorates.
4. As indicated in previous answers on this issue (answer to Questions on Notice 153 to 188 of 12 February 2008), the election commitments made by Federal Labor are on the public record. These measures implementing commitments that are funded through Budget appropriations to the Resources, Energy and Tourism portfolio are detailed in Departments' Portfolio Budget Statements.