

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FUEL AND ENERGY

Questions on Notice

Canberra, 14 December 2009

Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

QoN No.	Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	Response
1	28	Chair	<p>CHAIR—Yes, but the work of Geoscience Australia is much more specific—and you are nodding, so you agree. Their work is much more specific. It is not just related to the supply of uranium worldwide outside of Australia; it is actually looking at the potential of uranium and thorium to be part of the energy security solution in Australia into the future.</p> <p>Ms Constable—That is not correct, Senator.</p> <p>CHAIR—I think you will find that that is what they told us last time. I cannot remember the exact description of the program that they were doing it under, but they very explicitly told us that they were assessing uranium and thorium resources in Australia in the context of Australia’s energy security needs into the future. You might want to take that on notice and acquaint yourself with that, but that is very definitely what they told us. Also, I asked you last time, when we met in June, whether all energy sources were in scope in the context of the energy white paper, and you said—I encourage you to check; it is on page 17 of the relevant <i>Hansard</i>: All energy sources are in scope. What has changed since 26 June 2009?</p>	<p>Tania Constable, Principal Adviser, Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>The Geoscience Australia website previously contained the following text to which this question refers.</p> <p>"The Onshore Energy Security Program (OESP) will deliver reliable, precompetitive geoscience data and scientifically based assessments of the potential for onshore energy resources, including oil, gas, hot rocks (geothermal energy), uranium and thorium. The program is scheduled to finish in mid 2011 and is designed to significantly boost investment in exploration for onshore energy resources, particularly oil and gas, to assist in securing a sustainable energy supply for Australia's future. It complements Geoscience Australia's offshore exploration for hydrocarbons in frontier regions."</p> <p>In order to remove from the website any ambiguity that might incorrectly suggest that the onshore energy security program is investigating uranium and thorium for domestic energy purposes - the web site has been updated as follows</p>

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