

NORTH WEST SHELF EXTENSION PROPOSAL — ASSESSMENT

1836. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) (1) As part of the assessment of the cultural heritage impacts of the North West Shelf extension, will the Commonwealth consider whether free, prior and informed consent and other relevant principles of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights and Interests of Indigenous peoples have been met by the proponent?
- (2) (2) if no to (1), why not?
- (3) (3) if yes to (1), how will these principles be considered in the assessment process and what criteria will be applied?
- (4) (4) can the Minister provide an overview of the cultural heritage impacts that are in scope of the current assessment of the North West Shelf extension?
- (5) (5) in relation to (4), does this include cultural heritage impacts of the gas field developments that are required to supply the North West Shelf into the future, for the life of the development?
- (6) (6) if no to (4), and (5), why not?
- (7) (7) if yes to (4), and (5), what gas fields or reserves are being considered as part of this assessment?
- (8) (8) does the Government consider that impacts to cultural heritage in the Kimberley as a result of development of the onshore Canning Basin to supply the North West Shelf facility are relevant considerations for assessment?
- (9) (9) if no to (8), why not?
- (10) (10) what conditions for the protection of cultural heritage currently apply to the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) approval for the Pluto LNG facility?
- (11) (11) does the Commonwealth agree with the recent advice of the State EPA, that the state cultural heritage conditions for the Pluto LNG facility are inadequate?
- (12) (12) if no to (11), why not?
- (13) (13) will the Commonwealth review the conditions on the Pluto LNG facility under the EPBC Act to ensure that cultural heritage impacts from the project are acceptable?
- (14) (14) if no to (13), why not?
- (15) (15) are the cultural heritage impacts of processing Scarborough gas at the Pluto LNG facility and using Scarborough gas at the Perdaman ammonia facility considered relevant indirect consequences within the scope of the the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) assessment of the Scarborough offshore gas development according to the EPBC indirect consequences policy and NOPSEMA's environment regulations?
- (16) (16) if no to (15), why not?
- (17) (17) if yes to (14), when will they be assessed by NOPSEMA?

Hon Darren West replied:

- (1)–(3) This matter relates to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water's consideration of the project.
- (4) The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has assessed the environmental impacts associated with the North West Shelf Project Extension proposal. In its assessment report number 1727 the EPA recommended conditions to address Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and cultural values to apply throughout the life of the extension proposal.
- (5)–(7) The development of gas fields was not part of the North West Shelf Project Extension proposal and therefore was not assessed by the EPA in its assessment of that proposal.
- (8)–(9) Any proposal for the development of a gas field that is likely, if implemented, to have a significant impact effect on the environment will need to be referred to the EPA for consideration of its environmental impacts.
- (10)–(17) This matter relates to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water's consideration of the project.