

NORTH WEST SHELF EXTENSION PROPOSAL — ASSESSMENT

1828. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) (1) In relation to the North West Shelf Extension proposal, will the environmental impacts associated with the development of gas reserves needed to supply the demand created by the facility over its lifetime be considered under the EPBC indirect consequences policy, which states that “Indirect consequences of an action may include off-site impacts including, but not limited to upstream impacts (such as the extraction of raw materials which are used to undertake the action)”?
- (2) (2) Are the environmental impacts of developing these reserves, including those in Commonwealth waters, being considered by the State Environmental Protection Authority assessment process for the North West Shelf Extension project, or will these be considered separately by the Commonwealth Department?
- (3) (3) If the latter, when will this occur?

Hon Darren West replied:

- (1) This is a matter that relates to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water’s consideration of the North West Shelf Project Extension proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is not appropriate for me to comment on the application of Commonwealth policies while the Commonwealth Minister for Environment is considering this project.
- (2) The development of the offshore gas reserves has not been considered by the WA EPA as part of this proposal.
- (3) It is not appropriate for me to comment on the matters and timing of projects subject to deliberation by Commonwealth decision-makers.