

VARANUS ISLAND GAS PLANT — ALLEGED INCIDENT

1012. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer the minister to a document tabled in the Australian Senate by Australian Capital Territory Senator David Pocock on 16 February 2023 containing a statement by an alleged whistleblower regarding an oil spill that allegedly took place sometime in March 2022 at the Varanus Island gas plant, which is located 300 kilometres off the coast of Karratha.

- (1) Has the state government completed an investigation or is it currently carrying out an investigation into this alleged incident?
- (2) If the state government has completed an investigation into this alleged incident, what were the findings of that investigation?
- (3) Is the state government aware of an investigation into this alleged incident either internally by Santos or externally by a third and independent party?
- (4) If yes to (3), does the state government expect to be informed of the findings of this investigation; and, if so, when?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) The Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety is currently carrying out an investigation into the alleged incident.
- (2) The investigation is ongoing.
- (3) Yes, DMIRS is aware of an internal investigation by Santos.
- (4) Santos informed DMIRS of the findings of its internal investigation on 22 March 2023.