

BROWSE LNG PROJECT —
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY BOARD VOTE

439. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

- (1) When was the minister informed that only one Environmental Protection Authority member had not been found to have a conflict of interest in relation to the Browse project?
- (2) Does the minister agree with the EPA chair's statement that "A lot of people across a lot of government departments knew about this"?
- (3) Did the minister inform the Premier about the Browse assessment being undertaken without four of the five EPA board members; and, if not, why not; and, if so, when?
- (4) Were other ministers informed; and, if not, why not; and, if so, when?
- (5) How many times has the EPA held inquorate meetings deliberating the Browse gas hub project in the past 12 months?
- (6) How many times has the EPA been left inquorate because of conflict-of-interest declarations in the past 10 years?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) This was raised as a potential issue by the Environmental Protection Authority chairman in February 2012.
- (2) The minister is not involved in discussions with government departments during the environmental impact assessment process.
- (3)–(4) The Environmental Protection Authority will provide advice in the form of a report to the Minister for Environment. He is then responsible for determining whether the proposal can proceed based on this report and advice from other sources, including decision-making ministers. Other ministers are not involved in this process.
- (5) Four.
- (6) Approximately 120 documents need to be reviewed to answer this question. The information will be provided directly to the honourable member once the review has occurred.