

WATER FOR FOOD PROGRAM — UNCONVENTIONAL GAS

**374. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the Water for Food focus areas of Irwin and Dinner Hill.

- (1) Is the minister aware that there are active unconventional gas exploration permits over both these areas?
- (2) Has any research been done into the potential repercussions of this program and an unconventional gas field project coexisting?
- (3) If yes to (2), will the minister please table this research?
- (4) If no to (2), why not?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The two areas overlay pre-existing petroleum exploration permits and production licences.
- (2)–(4) The state has a robust regulatory framework, which supports multiple land use, by which proponents provide the required research through environmental and other plans. A summary of environmental plans is available from the Department of Mines and Petroleum website.

*Point of Order*

**Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE:** Mr President, the minister has referred to a website for information for the chamber. I thought you had a ruling on that.

**The PRESIDENT:** Yes, I have. The ruling is that an answer should not contain a reference to a website purely as the answer. If it is supplementary information to the answer, that is another matter. But if the answer is framed purely in the sense of referring to a website where the member will find the information, that is not suitable. Perhaps the minister would like to indicate that he will reconsider that and provide another answer at some stage.

**Hon COL HOLT:** Thank you, Mr President. It is not quite clear that this answers the question. I am happy to take it on notice and inform the member.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*