

UNCONVENTIONAL GAS — MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — COMMENTS

1184. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to question without notice 828 asked on 19 August 2014, in which the minister advised that “There is no such thing as unconventional gas in Western Australia”.

- (1) If there is no such thing as unconventional gas in Western Australia, to what does the Inquiry into the Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas, being conducted by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, owe its name?
- (2) If there is no such thing as unconventional gas in Western Australia, what is the inquiry into the implications for Western Australia of hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas investigating?
- (3) What does the minister understand the term “unconventional gas” to mean?
- (4) What does the minister understand the term “renewable energy” to mean?

The PRESIDENT: Parts of that question are direct questions to the committee rather than the minister, but the minister may like to provide an answer.

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, which I answer on behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

- (1) The minister is not a member of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs and has no involvement with its operations and inquiries.
- (2) The terms of reference are available from the environment and public affairs committee.
- (3) Not applicable. There is no accepted definition for the term “unconventional gas”.
- (4) “Renewable energy” means energy from a source that is not depleted when used.