

BURU ENERGY — FRACKING OPERATIONS

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

I refer to Buru Energy's plans to exploit oil and gas reserves, including tight gas, in Western Australia, especially in the Canning Superbasin.

- (1) How many fracking operations has Buru undertaken in the state and at which wells did they take place?
- (2) To what depth were the wells drilled; and, if the operation included horizontal drilling, in which direction or directions and at what distance did this occur?
- (3) How much water, which chemicals and in what quantities were used in each fracking operation, including materials to ensure fissures remained open?
- (4) How much water was recovered from each fracking operation and where was it discarded?
- (5) Was this water tested and will the minister table the results?
- (6) Is the minister aware that dead fauna have been found in or near Buru's dams or wastewater ponds and will he explain what caused these deaths?

The PRESIDENT: That is a very detailed question and hardly meets the definition of concise.

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Department of Mines and Petroleum advises —

- (1) Buru Energy Limited, as operator, has undertaken one fracking operation in Western Australia to date. Buru hydraulically fractured Yulleroo 2 in the Canning Basin in 2010. This was originally drilled by Arc Energy Limited in 2008.
- (2) This information is available from the Department of Mines and Petroleum's website. Yulleroo 2 is a vertical well, drilled to 3 730 metres. To date, horizontal drilling coupled with hydraulic fracturing has not been used in Western Australia.
- (3) Buru has made available through its website a list of chemicals and water volumes approved for Yulleroo 2 hydraulic fracturing.
- (4) The flow-back water was evaporated in lined evaporation ponds after treatment. Flow-back was 6 815 barrels—30 per cent of the water volume used for the Yulleroo 2 hydraulic fracturing treatment.
- (5) Yes, the flow-back was tested by the operator. Flow-back analysis indicated that salinity was high and radiation levels were low and did not exceed subsurface water background levels.
- (6) No. There have been no fauna deaths reported to Department of Mines and Petroleum at the Yulleroo 2 site.

The PRESIDENT: One part of that question referred to information being available on the department's website. I think I have explained before that the problem with that is that websites can change, and the information that is available today may be different next week or next year. If ministers want to refer to websites in their answers, I think they should also table a printed sheet of that website so that the information is current.