

UNCONVENTIONAL GAS — MINISTER FOR MINES AND PETROLEUM — COMMENTS

**1242. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the minister's statement in reference to question without notice 828, asked on Tuesday, 19 August 2014, that there is no such thing as unconventional gas in Western Australia, and a further statement in reference to question without notice 1184, asked on Tuesday, 21 October 2014, that there is no accepted definition for the term "unconventional gas".

- (1) To what was the minister as Minister for Environment referring to in the answer to question on notice 7974, answered on 19 June 2012 in the Legislative Assembly, when he answered that the unconventional gas proposals referred to the Environmental Protection Authority have been small-scale trial proposals?
- (2) To what was the minister referring to in his ministerial statement on Tuesday, 7 May 2013, when he reported on his visit to the United States for the Liquefied Natural Gas 17 conference held in Houston, Texas, and stated that these messages were well received, especially at a time when Western Australia's emerging unconventional gas sector is gaining early momentum in the exploration and appraisal phase?
- (3) What definition of unconventional gas outlined in parts (1) and (2) was the minister using?
- (4) If there is no such thing as unconventional gas in Western Australia, to what was the minister referring on those occasions?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1)–(4) In my role as the Minister for Mines and Petroleum I have become increasingly aware that the term "unconventional gas" is inappropriate. "Unconventional gas" has been a popular umbrella term for natural gas from shale, tight sands, coal seams and ocean floor hydrates. With over 20 years of extracting natural gas from the first three sources, it is difficult to continue to classify these sources as unconventional. Further, natural gas sourced from shale and tight rocks is identical to other sources of natural gas available in the state.