

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING — ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

1319. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan government's announcement on Tuesday, 27 November 2018, that it would approve fracking.

- (1) Has any economic analysis of fracking in Western Australia been carried out and provided to the government in addition to the inquiry report?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), will the government table the analysis?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) Why did the government cancel a meeting with the Australia Institute scheduled for Thursday, 29 November 2018, and instruct government members of Parliament not to attend?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(4) The terms of reference of the scientific inquiry included undertaking an assessment and report on the potential impacts arising from the implementation of hydraulic fracture stimulation—fracking—on the onshore environment of Western Australia, outside of the Perth metropolitan, Peel and south west regions. Specifically, the inquiry was to identify environmental, health, agriculture, heritage and community impacts associated with the process of hydraulic fracture stimulation in Western Australia, noting that impacts may vary in accordance with the location of the activity; to use credible scientific and historical evidence to assess the level of risk associated with identified impacts; to describe regulatory mechanisms that may be employed to mitigate or minimise risks to an acceptable level, where appropriate; to recommend a scientific approach to regulating hydraulic fracture stimulation; and to hold community meetings in Perth, and the midwest and Kimberley regions.
- (5) The meeting that the member is referring to was a proposed briefing to caucus, not government, and was planned for a date after the announcement of the government's position—it therefore became redundant. Instead, the caucus was briefed earlier by Dr Tom Hatton, PSM, FTSE, chair of the independent scientific panel.