

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING — MID WEST — DROVER 1

1411. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to the proposed AWE Limited fracking operation in the Mid West known as ‘Drover 1’, and ask:

- (a) when is the actual fracking operation expected to be undertaken;
- (b) is the Minister aware that there is an old petroleum well called Gairdner 1 near to the Drover 1 well;
- (c) how close is this well to Drover 1, and when was it closed down;
- (d) has the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) recently assessed this well to ascertain its integrity;
- (e) if no to (d), why not;
- (f) if yes to (d), when was the assessment conducted and what was the DMP assessment of the integrity of this old well;
- (g) has the DMP conducted a risk assessment to ascertain whether the planned fracking of Drover 1 could compromise the integrity of the Gairdner well;
- (h) if no to (g), why not;
- (i) if yes to (g), will the Minister release the risk assessment;
- (j) if no to (i), why not;
- (k) is the Minister concerned that this old well could become a pathway through which fracking chemicals and other contaminants could move vertically up from the Drover 1 frack to reach and pollute surface or near surface aquifers including drinking water supply aquifers;
- (l) will groundwater and surface water monitoring be conducted by the DMP at Drover 1;
- (m) if no to (l), why not;
- (n) will this monitoring include baseline monitoring;
- (o) if no to (n), why not;
- (p) when will the results of any monitoring be released to the public;
- (q) will the Minister release the Well Integrity Plan prepared by AWE Limited for the Drover 1 fracking operation;
- (r) if no to (q), why not;
- (s) will the Minister release the water monitoring plan or plans for the Drover 1 fracking operation; and
- (t) if no to (s), why not?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) advises:

- (a) Timing of hydraulic fracture stimulation depends on equipment availability and analysis of the cores; therefore a precise date for the hydraulic fracture stimulation cannot be provided at this time.
- (b) Yes
- (c) The Gairdner 1 well is located approximately 800 metres from the Drover 1 well; DMP records indicate that the Gairdner 1 well was completed in November 1990.
- (d) Yes
- (e) Not applicable
- (f) The Gairdner 1 has been permanently decommissioned according to international standards. Details of the Gairdner 1 well are available in the Well Completion Report from DMP’s website.
- (g) Yes
- (h) Not applicable
- (i) No
- (j) See response to (f).
- (k) No

- (l) No
- (m) DMP will audit compliance against the operator's approved monitoring program.
- (n) Yes
- (o) Not applicable
- (p) Unknown. DMP is waiting upon legal advice from the State Solicitor's Office to determine if it is legally able to release this information.
- (q) No
- (r) The environmental plan summary for Drover 1 is available from DMP's website.
- (s) No
- (t) See response to (r)