



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Hearing date: 11/02/2026

Question taken on notice

Directed to: Anda Banikos

Received date: 18/02/2026

P.31 **The CHAIR:** Anda, just very quickly in conclusion from me, you talk about a public register of assets that should exist and who is responsible for them and the clean-up. Are you aware of any examples in other jurisdictions or anywhere else around the world where something like that might exist that we could potentially make a recommendation and point to and say, 'something like that'?

Anda BANIKOS: That is a fabulous question. I am not specifically aware – certainly I would say not in Australia, because we are basically cutting edge, what is happening now. That is why it is so important and we get it right. I am happy to take that on notice

Response:

There is a public portal of the National Electronic Approvals Tracking System (NEATS) <https://public.neats.nopta.gov.au/> which provides access to publicly available information concerning offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage titles and offshore electricity infrastructure licences. This register already shows information about the title holders and could be upgraded to include date of clean-up completion, and estimated clean-up cost. Our Victorian Government could and should advocate to the Federal Government that estimated clean-up costs be paid in full into a trust account before the Title is issued. NB There decommissioning bonds are already required for new offshore wind projects, this model could be extended to oil and gas. A similar model could be used for our State waters. In both cases there should be strict compliance enforcement.

1. P.32 Melina BATH

Question: -you mentioned best practice a couple of times again in terms of best practice of environmental protection of unpacking and decommissioning and disassembling. It might be a take on notice as well, but have you done any reading or research as to where that is happening well, in terms of the physical structures around the world?

Anda BANIKOS: I have, but I cannot do it off the top of my head.

Response: Best practice oil and gas decommissioning operations are being carried out by Able UK (UK) <https://www.ableuk.com/> They also have capacity to suit the requirements of the offshore wind installation and marine recycling industries.

AF Gruppen (Norway) <https://www.afgruppen.com/selskaper/Decommissioning/> are another example of best practice oil and gas decommissioning and recycling.

2. P.33 Melina BATH

Question: -few years ago we did an inquiry into recycling in I think it was renewable energy. I was really keen on understanding: if we have got our wind turbines – which we do at Toora and the like – how they are recycled at the end of their natural life and about cradle to grave. I think this is an area that Australia should be working on the front toes of. This is a new industry here, as in the decommissioning. Do you have any thoughts, or have you done any research on that, about the recycling of steel?- Have you done any reading? I know you were very strong in saying it should not go overseas, it should be kept here. Just expand on that so I am not answering the question.

Anda BANIKOS: -Again, I can take that on notice-

Response: There is much less steel in onshore wind turbines (like those at Toora), than for offshore structures. The onshore wind turbines are also more easily accessed for removal for recycling and should be able to be removed along the same roads/access points they were brought in by for construction. (I expect it would be a case of them being replaced by newer models, rather than the site being cleared of wind turbines.) Approximately 85-94% of a wind turbine (by mass) is recyclable and can be recycled in Australia. This is mostly steel, aluminium, copper and cast iron.

<https://cleanenergycouncil.org.au/news-resources/new-report-vast-majority-of-wind-turbines-can-avoid-landfill-in-australia>

The amount of steel in off-shore structures is of a far greater order of magnitude and requires large lay-down areas at ports and receiving centres. Feasibility studies have been done for extending existing port and recycling infrastructure at Geelong, Whyalla (SA) and Bell Bay (TAS).