

Energy and Resources

Questions on Notice

Question 1

Aiv PUGLIELLI: *I do understand the point you are making. In terms of the consultation you have just referred to, in terms of power arrangement between the two governments, are you effectively forced to do whatever the federal minister wants with respect to these projects, or have you ever used your role in the joint authority to refuse a project?*

Lily D'AMBROSIO: *I will get advice on this. I am not sure that I have the authority to reject. But in any case, can I say that where we can find gas, whether it is in Commonwealth waters, state waters or indeed onshore – and I have explained the geology of all of this – it is going to be important for us to continue to source supplies of gas. That is really critical, because this is not like turning a tap on and off. The fact is we are going to need gas resources for many years to come. That is really critical for us to consider when we are having these discussions.*

Aiv PUGLIELLI: *To clarify the response you have just given, so you have not ever refused a project under that joint authority?*

Lily D'AMBROSIO: *I do not believe I have, no – not in the time that I have been minister.*

Aiv PUGLIELLI: *Thank you, Minister.*

Lily D'AMBROSIO: *I will double-check that, but I do not believe that I have.*

Aiv PUGLIELLI: *I would appreciate that, thank you...*

Answer:

During my time as the Minister for Energy and Resources, where I am the Victorian member of the Commonwealth-Victoria Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (Cth), I have not decided to refuse any title administration applications for petroleum titles in Commonwealth waters.

I would like to add that not all applications for titles in Commonwealth waters are to be decided on by the Joint Authority. Any special prospecting authority or access authority (to enable the large-scale seismic surveys currently proposed in Commonwealth waters) are to be decided on by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator and not the Joint Authority.