

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1264

asked on Wednesday, 16 September 2009

MR HOPPER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

Why are companies not using existing roadways and easements for putting in pipelines (for example the proposed Tipton to Laidley pipeline for Mulgowie Power)?

ANSWER:

Companies wishing to construct pipelines for the carriage of gas or petroleum usually conduct surveys to ascertain which route is the most cost effective and achievable with regard to point to point distance, the receiving environment and topography.

The use of road reserves is in most cases not a practical option because easements have the potential to restrict the road authority from carrying out road maintenance, widening, or other necessary works.

Existing pipeline easements may not be an option because of issues connected with safety and maintenance, and in addition, individual companies usually wish to maintain control over their own infrastructure.

The *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* prescribes the conditions and procedures relating to entry to, and acquisition of, land for the purposes of surveying for, and construction of, gas and petroleum pipelines.

Notwithstanding the grant of a pipeline licence, the land within that licence does not become 'pipeline land' until the holder of the licence either becomes the owner of the land or holds an appropriate easement over the land.