

Question on Notice

No. 161

Asked on 16 February 2017

MR R PYNE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION:

With reference to allegations made recently by whistleblower Sally McDow in the Federal Court claiming that Origin Energy Limited has breached Queensland regulations and deliberately failed to report to relevant authorities on numerous occasions as well as possibly miscalculating royalties —

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) what steps the Queensland Government has taken to address the allegations raised by Ms McDow and what investigations have commenced into Origin Energy Ltd operations in response to it and (b) will the Queensland Government commit to a properly resourced and independent forensic investigation of all Origin Energy operations over the last decade as a matter of urgency and halt any further unconventional gas approvals until that is complete?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Cairns for his question.

Origin Energy Limited, the company referred by the Member, is an incorporated, publicly listed company governed by the *Corporations Act 2001* (Commonwealth) (Corporations Act) and is not a government-owned corporation (GOC).

I understand that Ms McDow made a disclosure about Origin Energy under the Corporations Act's whistle-blower provisions and is seeking relief under the Commonwealth *Fair Work Act 2009*. Ms McDow has not sought to rely on Queensland's *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010* which provides protections for people making a public interest disclosure.

As these proceedings are now currently before the courts, it would not be appropriate for me as the Attorney-General to comment any further.

The issue the Member has raised, regarding the oversight of Origin Energy operations, falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.