

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 445

asked on Wednesday, 2 May 2018

MR D LAST ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why the final Queensland gas supply and demand action plan is still yet to be released almost 12 months after it was due?

ANSWER:

The past two years have seen significant turmoil and dramatic change in the east coast gas market.

We have seen a moratorium on onshore gas exploration and development in Victoria for both conventional and unconventional gas; a moratorium on fracking in the Northern Territory, which has now been lifted; and a moratorium on fracking in the south east of South Australia. The Commonwealth's Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism further added uncertainty to the east coast market and its suppliers.

This constantly changing environment and the need to properly consider the implications of these developments have made it difficult for the Queensland Government to finalise all elements of the Gas Action Plan; however, where it will clearly deliver the best outcomes for Queensland, we have progressed initiatives designed to assist the industry in getting gas to those who need it to create jobs and heat their homes.

The government has continued to do the heavy lifting on gas policy.

We championed Jemena's \$800 million Northern Gas Pipeline bringing Northern Territory gas to Mount Isa and, potentially, to the east coast market.

Senex is already at work preparing to produce gas for the Australian domestic market on the 58 square kilometres of coal seam gas acreage near Miles in the Surat Basin.

Two local producers—Central Petroleum and Armour Energy—will develop a total of almost another 400 square kilometres just north of the townships of Miles and Surat in south-west Queensland.

We will continue these releases, delivering on our election commitment to release land annually for gas exclusively for the Australian market.

Queensland has also secured the bulk of the \$30.4 million investment by the Australian Government to conduct geological and bioregional assessments in the Cooper and Mount Isa Super basins. These studies will help prime these important new gas basins for development.

It is anticipated that the finalised plan will be released in the second half of 2018.