

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1364

asked on Thursday, 10 November 2022

MR M BERKMAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to shallow corrosion of CSG well production-casing—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many instances of shallow corrosion of production-casing of CSG wells have been reported to the government since 2016 and in how many of these instances was bacteria the likely cause of the corrosion, (b) are CSG companies required to report all instances of shallow corrosion of production-casing of CSG wells, (c) what assessments have been conducted or requested by the government to determine the prevalence and environmental impacts of shallow corrosion of production-casing of CSG wells in Queensland and (d) what actions has the government taken to address this issue?

ANSWER:

- (a) Mandatory reporting by coal seam gas (CSG) operators about well integrity was implemented in 2019 as required by the *Code of Practice for the construction and abandonment of petroleum wells and associated bores in Queensland – 2019 version 2*. Since 2019, Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) has received 228 well integrity notifications. Out of the 228 notifications, 20 per cent were identified as relating to subsurface corrosion.

Well integrity reporting requirements do not specify the likely cause of subsurface corrosion. Not all subsurface corrosion is microbially induced and not all production casing corrosion leads to a breach in well integrity.

- (b) All CSG operators are required to report breaches of well integrity.
- (c) RSHQ audits and inspects operators' compliance with the *Code of Practice For the construction and abandonment of petroleum wells and associated bores in Queensland*
(www.resources.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1461093/code-of-practice-petroleum-wells-bores.pdf)

and the Queensland petroleum well regulation three-year plan

(www.rshq.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1485731/qld-petroleum-well-regulation-3-year-plan.pdf)

Since 2020, less than 1 per cent per annum of the total wells in Queensland have been reported to RSHQ with a well integrity issue. RSHQ will continue to apply its Compliance and Enforcement Policy

(www.publications.qld.gov.au/ckan-publications-attachments-prod/resources/1c401021-3f6c-4adb-a1d4-ef3e64727442/compliance-enforcement-policy.pdf?ETag=8406d0f4f429484a5d340b1f236bb04b)

- (d) Refer to (c) above.