

House: Legislative Council- QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Date: Wednesday, 29 August 2007

Member: Watson, Hon Giz; Ravlich, Hon Ljiljanna

Subject: WOODSIDE ENERGY LTD - PLUTO SITE B

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WOODSIDE ENERGY LTD - PLUTO SITE B

661. Hon GIZ WATSON to the minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

I refer to the statement made in *The West Australian* on 28 February 2007 where Mrs Roberts said that there were no economically viable alternate sites to Pluto site B.

- (1) What documentation was available to the minister to enable her to make this statement?
- (2) Will the minister table any advice or documentation that supports this assertion?
- (3) Is the minister aware that Woodside's chief executive officer, Mr Don Voelte, stated at the Woodside annual general meeting on 19 April 2007 that the government had instructed Woodside to use the site B location as opposed to the preferred option of site E on the Burrup?
- (4) Will the minister now engage with Woodside's CEO to attempt to resolve this matter and protect the cultural heritage under her control?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) As part of the application by Woodside Energy Ltd under section 18(2) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 for consent to use Pluto site B, Woodside Energy Ltd submitted a document identifying its efforts to identify alternate locations and provided justification as to why, out of the 12 sites considered, site B was the most viable location for the project.
- (2) No. Consistent with section 56 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, the documents will not be tabled to retain confidentiality.
- (3) No.
- (4) Stringent conditions have been attached to the consent of the project to protect and preserve Aboriginal heritage sites. The Department of Indigenous Affairs liaises with Woodside Energy Ltd and is monitoring condition compliance.