

From: [Jessica Rossell](#)
To: [Portfolio Committee 4](#)
Cc:
Subject: Clarification regarding legacy petroleum wells
Date: Monday, 6 January 2020 5:37:50 PM
Attachments: [191021 - FINAL - NSW Government Submission - CSG CSE Report Parliamentary Inquiry.docx](#)

Dear Sir/Madam

We would like to clarify evidence on behalf of the witness Mr Michael Wright, Deputy Secretary Resources and Geoscience, provided at the Inquiry by Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry, into *The implementation of the recommendations contained in the NSW Chief Scientist's Independent Review of Coal Seam Gas Activities in New South Wales*, held on 3 October 2019.

The following passage on page 23 of the transcript, which reads as follows:

To date action has been taken on 28 of those 36 wells. All works for the full set of wells are planned to be finalised by 2021, subject to ongoing funding, obviously.

should read:

To date action has been taken on 19 of those 36 wells. All works for the full set of wells are planned to be finalised by 2021, subject to available funding.

An error was made in calculating completed actions. The Division of Resources and Geoscience continues to closely monitor and inspect legacy wells across NSW.

We would also like to clarify the same figure for completed actions on legacy petroleum wells in the Government's Submission to the Inquiry. We attach a copy of the Government's Submission with the corrected figure for uploading.

We would like to clarify the same figure in the response to Supplementary Question 481 to Portfolio Committee No.4 – Industry, Budget Estimates 2019-20 hearing on 13 September 2019.

The following answer which was provided to Question 481:

In 2014, the Legacy Mines Program was expanded to consider legacy petroleum wells. Projects are prioritised based on safety and environmental risk. The program has assessed 900 petroleum wells, with 350 wells found to legacy or abandoned. Of these, and following an extensive risk assessment, the program identified 36 as requiring further action. To date actions on 28 wells have been completed. The government will continue to monitor issues associated with legacy petroleum wells.

should read:

In 2014, the Legacy Mines Program was expanded to consider legacy petroleum wells. Projects are prioritised based on safety and environmental risk. The program has assessed 900 petroleum wells, with 350 wells found to legacy or abandoned. Of these, and following an extensive risk assessment, the program identified 36 as requiring further action. To date actions on 19 wells have been completed. The government will continue to monitor issues associated with legacy petroleum wells.

Kind regards
Jessica Rossell

Jessica Rossell
A/Director Resources Policy
Division of Resources and Geoscience | NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Level 11, 323 Castlereagh St Sydney 2000
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au



The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.