CLAIMS

1. A packer assembly (5) for maintaining a seal between inner and outer elements (1) of a telescopic riser joint, said packer assembly comprising an inner packer (8,108) element and an outer concentric packer element (9,109), an actuator (25) which is slidable over the outer packer element to deflect the outer packer element inwards against the inner packer element and a sensor (34) for detecting linear movement of the actuator relative to the outer packer element caused by wear in the seal of the packer **characterised in that** a setting component (13,150) is provided between the actuator and the outer packer element, the setting component being radially moveable towards the outer packer element to assist in forcing the packer assembly against the inner element.

2. A packer assembly according to claims 1, wherein the outer packer element comprises a profiled outer surface.

3. A packer assembly according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a setting component comprises a profiled outer surface.

4. A packer assembly according to claim 3, wherein the setting component comprises a plurality of bodies (13) mounted between the actuator and the packer assembly.

5. A packer assembly according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of bodies form a segmented ring between the actuator and the packer assembly.

6. A packer assembly according to any of claims 4-5, wherein each body is substantially C-shaped.

7. A packer assembly according to any of claims 4-6 wherein each body of the setting component comprises a spine (161) with a profiled outer surface.

8. A packer assembly according to any of claim 4-7, wherein a connector bar or strap is provided between adjacent bodies of the setting component, the connector bar or strap (164) is slidably mounted between adjacent bodies.

9. A packer assembly according to any of claim 2 or claims 3-8 when dependent upon claim 2, wherein the actuator comprises a cam surface which cooperates with the profiled outer surface of the outer packer element.

10. A packer assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the actuator comprises a substantially tubular sleeve (26,126) slidably mounted over the outer surface of the outer packer element or the setting component.

11. A packer assembly according to claim 10, wherein the cam surface of the actuator is provided on an internal surface of the sleeve.

12. A packer assembly according to any of claims 10 or 11, wherein one or more pistons (165) are mounted to the outer surface of the sleeve.

13. A packer assembly according to any of the previous claims wherein the sensor comprises a body which is moveable through a secondary chamber.

14. A packer assembly according to claim 13, wherein one or more apertures are provided between the piston chamber and the secondary chamber to provide a pathway for hydraulic fluid from the chamber within which the piston is provided to the secondary chamber.

15. A packer assembly according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the secondary chamber comprises a first portion having a first diameter and a second portion having a second diameter, the second diameter being smaller than the first diameter.

16. A packer assembly according to claim 15 wherein the diameter of the second portion is around % the diameter of the first portion.

17. A packer assembly according to any of the preceding claims, the arrangement being such that as the actuator slides over the outer surface of the outer packer element, hydraulic fluid is forced from the piston chamber into the sensor chamber through the apertures to force the sensor body to move through the sensor chamber.

18. A packer assembly according to any of the preceding claims, wherein a window or slot is provided in the sensor chamber for viewing the position of the sensor within the chamber.

19. A packer assembly according to any of the preceding claims wherein the assembly further comprises an outer housing (4).

20. A packer assembly according to claim 19, wherein the outer housing surrounds the packer element and comprises flanged covers at each end, which covers have angled detents provided therein into which a profiled locking member of a latch for securing the flanged covers to the outer housing can be driven.

21. A packer assembly according to claim 19 or 20 further comprising one or more spaces mounted between the packer elements and the flanged covers of the housing.

22. A telescopic joint comprising an outer tubular member and a concentric inner tubular member, the inner member being slidably received within the outer member and a packer assembly according to any of the preceding claims provided between the innerwall of the outer tubular member and the outer wall of the inner tubular member.