

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

QoN No.	Program/Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
1.	Corporate	McAllister	Protocol to recover money from grant recipients	<p>Senator McALLISTER: This is a circumstance that happens in a range of cases; it's not exclusive to Shine. What tools are available to the department to recover money that has already been disbursed if the instrument is subsequently disallowed?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I'm just going to keep repeating myself. I can give an assurance that, of course, we'll be ready to deal with that eventuality if and when that occurs.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: In the past how has the department dealt with such circumstances?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Is there a formal protocol, a written policy, in the department for how to deal with those circumstances?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think that would be highly unlikely. I'll take that on notice. Let's face it, every circumstance is different. Of course, as you know and all senators know, until a rule is disallowed, that law is extant and applicable and an expectation is that departments will act faithful to the law, which is what we've done in this instance. Of course, if and when a disallowance motion is successful then we would, as I've said, be ready to deal with that at the time. In terms of precedent for that, every precedent is going to be different because of the nature of the grant and the nature of the disallowance.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: There is no written protocol, so you may or may not be able to recover the money?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: As I say, we will be ready to deal with that when the time comes, if the time comes.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Has money ever been recovered from a grant recipient by this department in the past?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 45
2.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Green	Countries committed to net zero emissions	<p>Senator GREEN: All states and territories have committed to that target. Does the department keep a list of all of the countries that have signed up to net zero emissions by 2050?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, we do keep track of those things. I'm not sure whether that is within Ms Bennett's scope. Ms Munro might be able to provide some extra detail on the countries.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Perhaps just a number. Do you have an idea of how many countries have signed up to that?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we do have that information.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 48

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Ms Munro: By our estimation, in terms of the number of countries that have put forward a commitment to net zero, it would be 34 countries.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Can you give us, on notice, a list of those countries?</p> <p>Ms Munro: The actual list of countries?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes. On notice, not right now.</p> <p>Ms Munro: Yes, we're happy to take that on notice.</p>	
3.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	Green	<p>Australian businesses signed up to net zero emissions</p>	<p>Senator GREEN: Rather than whether the list is comprehensive, is there a list of Australian businesses and organisations that have signed up to net zero emissions? Does the department keep a list—there are probably some big companies and organisations on that list—even if it's not completely comprehensive? I'm not expecting you to have every single business in Australia—</p> <p>Ms Evans: As I said, we do keep—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: There would certainly be some big providers and big organisations on that list.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, there are. I'll see whether we have some details; otherwise we can take it on notice and provide that for you. You're definitely right; there are some very recognisable companies in Australia who have taken on those kinds of targets.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 48</p>
4.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	Patrick	<p>Process to be considered for the \$110 million contingency reserve for a solar thermal plant</p>	<p>Senator PATRICK: I've really just got one question. In the 2018-19 budget there was \$210 million allocated in contingency reserve to secure the delivery of a solar thermal power generation facility at Port Augusta in South Australia. The proponent of that particular proposal I think went into receivership. So I'm just wondering what has happened to that money. Is there some way in which that can still be drawn on to achieve the objectives of the project, noting it wasn't necessarily designed for any particular company?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The amount was \$110 million. I think you said \$210 million.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sorry, I meant \$110 million.</p> <p>Ms Evans: And it is still sitting in the contingency reserve. In the way it was appropriated it was not specific to that project; it was more broadly the concept of a solar thermal plant for Australia.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: So if someone comes up with a proposal that fits the description of that appropriation then they could make application to the department?</p> <p>Ms Evans: They could be considered by the government as to whether or not they wanted to use that contingency money for that purpose.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: What is the process for that? Just a letter to the department or a letter to the minister?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I might have to take that on notice. I don't think we have a formal process already mapped out because, as you say, when it first came up there was a clearer idea about what was likely to happen to that funding. But at this stage it's just sitting as an amount that's allocated. We haven't got a particular process.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 50</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				Senator PATRICK: I'm hoping you'll turn it into something, that's all.	
5.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Waters	Projection for methane emissions	<p>Senator WATERS: For clarity, what was the projection for methane emissions under the old measure for 2021-30?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: That's a good question; I might need to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 52
6.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Waters	Emissions budget	<p>Senator Birmingham: Outcomes for 2030 are adjusted, and the impact in that sense washes through. Officials will take it on notice to try to get some breakdown in terms of methane emissions—both how they have tracked to date as well as assumptions and projections around their forward movement and the impacts on that. I don't think you should prejudge that there is a diminishing of ambition or the like as a result of these accounting changes that Australia is applying in a manner that we anticipate all parties to apply consistently.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: That's what I was asking: is it just us or is it all parties? It sounds like it will be all parties, but I guess we'll find out for sure. What will our new 2021-30 emissions budget be? It was 4,777. What will it be now that the GWP has changed?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We might have to take that on notice to get it right. If we were just adjusting the 2019 projections for that amount? I can check—I don't know whether we have the answer. We refresh the projections each year. We would expect there to be an update to the projections later this year. I'm not sure whether the new global warming potential is already in that, not yet. We're just catching up.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 53
7.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Rice	Electric vehicles strategy	<p>Senator RICE: I want to continue on the topic of electric vehicles and the very delayed strategy. What you're telling us is that we're going to have a discussion paper by the end of the year; so we won't have a strategy by the end of the year?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator, I've answered those questions, and also highlighted some of the budget investments that have been committed in relation to related activities.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I want to clarify that what we now have a commitment to is a discussion paper by the end of the year. Do we actually have a time line on when we will have a strategy?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 56
8.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's	Rice	Electric vehicles strategy consultation	<p>Senator RICE: With regard to the consultation on the electric vehicle strategy, I had a question on notice that was about the consultation. Has there been any further consultation since you answered that question on notice?</p>	20/10/2020 Page 57

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	greenhouse gas emissions			<p>Ms Evans: Not in a formal way on the discussion paper or the strategy per se, but we do have an ongoing engagement with a range of players in the electric vehicle space. So we're constantly talking to people, but not formal consultation, which is what we said in our answer to your question on notice about where we listed those ones we had formally engaged in the development of the paper.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice the list of people whom you are informally having ongoing consultation with?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we are happy to do that.</p>	
9.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Rice	Commonwealth transport emissions reduction policies	<p>Senator RICE: In the meantime, while it's taking us so long to actually make any progress on this electric vehicle strategy and tackle reducing our ballooning transport emissions, can you point to a single national policy that is cutting transport emissions that now make up almost 20 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We've got the kinds of policies that affect the transport sector. I think we've already got methods under the emissions reduction fund. Transport is also covered by the safeguard mechanism under the government's emissions reduction mechanism safeguard. There are a range of other things that states and territories are also doing. So there are a number of policies in place that tackle the transport industry.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I am asking particularly about the Commonwealth. Perhaps you'd like to take that on notice. That's not a very convincing answer. But you might have a list of particular measures that are acting to reduce transport emissions. Certainly I can't see them. Just in my limited time—</p>	20/10/2020 Page 57
10.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	McAllister	Breakdown of funding for the five priority technologies	<p>Senator McALLISTER: So is there an anticipation then that the things which the Clean Energy Regulator presently funds through established methods or methodologies that are not aligned with the technology road map will cease to be funded?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, that's not the case. It is an estimate and, as I said, once you pull in also some of that CSIRO funding then the total number here is bigger than \$18 billion. So there's a bit of room there for some of the funding from the Clean Energy Regulator to continue to be used in some of the areas that it is already used.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Do you have an estimate of how much of the \$18 billion would go to the five priority technologies?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, I don't think we do. We could take it on notice to see whether there's something we can do to break that down. But I don't think we have tried to do that.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 59-60
11.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's	Waters	Deployment pathways	<p>Ms Evans: The concept behind the road map is for this to be very much a joint private-public partnership, and not just with the Commonwealth government, or the departments of state, but bringing in all the parts of the Commonwealth and then working with the private sector, in particular, and the state governments as well through the state deals.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 62

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	greenhouse gas emissions			<p>Senator WATERS: When you say you are working on those deployment pathways over the next little while, is there anything further that you can provide me on notice regarding the work that you have done so far on that?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I am happy to take it on notice and we will look at doing some kind of a summary of the work we have done to date.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, thank you; that would be helpful—including any assumptions that you are basing your pathways on.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, because there are a lot of assumptions and it starts to become a really large piece of work. But we will look at what we can provide you that is reasonable.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p>	
12.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Waters	Modelling or analytical work for tonnes per annum reduction	<p>Senator WATERS: Thanks, Minister. What is the modelling of that amount?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The modelling of the 250 million tonnes?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, the 250 million tonnes per annum reduction; is there some, and can you provide that to me on notice?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would describe it more as analytical work rather than modelling. I would call it analytical work looking at each of those technologies and what potential it might have if it was deployed both in Australia and—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Is that internal departmental work?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Done by the department; yes, that's right.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can that be provided on notice?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We can take that on notice and see what we can—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thanks very much.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 63-64
13.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Waters	Job creation modelling or analytical work	<p>Senator WATERS: ...With the jobs figure—the 130,000 jobs—is that a figure that you're saying just the public investment would create, or once again is that what these technologies could create with both private and public investment?</p> <p>Ms Evans: It ends up being a combined effort—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: The latter; okay.</p> <p>Ms Evans: For every dollar that the Commonwealth spends, we think that a certain number of jobs will be created through that, including through the leveraging of private sector capital.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, I understand. Again is that based on modelling or analytical work?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would call it analytical work. We use a bunch of information that helps us to make good judgements about what we can do.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you are able to provide any of that on notice, that is also a request.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Can do.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 64

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

14.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>Clean hydrogen costing and evidence</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: With the clean hydrogen stretch goal of \$2 a kilo, what's your assessment of the current cost of CCS hydrogen versus the current cost of renewable hydrogen? What figures are you working on at the moment for those two things? Ms Evans: I might have to take that on notice, unless my colleagues— Ms Munro: I don't have that with me. Senator WATERS: Okay. There's a statement on page 18 of the roadmap which doesn't have a footnote, so I'm asking on what evidence the statement is based. The statement says: Clean hydrogen from off-grid gas with CCS, and coal gasification with CCS might be the lowest cost clean production methods in the short-term, although renewable production methods will come down in cost as clean hydrogen demand grows. On what evidence was that based? Ms Evans: I'll take it on notice. Certainly, we had Dr Finkel and a number of other experts in gas and hydrogen. Ben Wilson from AGIG is the other name that I was trying to recall. We had a lot of expertise to help us frame some of the elements of the roadmap. I will take it on notice and come back with a specific answer. Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 64</p>
15.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>Asian Renewable Energy Hub project</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Are you familiar with the Asian Renewable Energy Hub project? Ms Evans: Yes. Senator WATERS: There was a reference in the <i>Guardian</i> on 3 October that they could create green hydrogen for less than the government's benchmark of \$2 a kilo already. Ms Evans: Fantastic. Senator WATERS: Yes. How do you explain the discrepancy between yours being a stretch goal and what this mob say they can already deliver? Senator Birmingham: If they can deliver it and they are looking for financing, they should get their application in to the CEFC. Ms Evans: We would be very excited if they could deliver it at this stage. Our sense is that it will still take quite a bit of work to bring the cost of some of the elements—electrolysers in particular—down to the kind of level that we need to get to \$2 a tonne. But if they think they can do it already, we would love to hear from them. Senator WATERS: I have no association with them, for the record. Senator Birmingham: For the record I think I have met with them at one stage. Senator WATERS: Have you? On notice, please tell me more.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 64-65</p>
16.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Annual abatement pathway</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I wanted to ask, as Senator Waters did, about the 250 megatonnes of abatement that is annually expected by 2040. Can you provide the annual abatement that is expected for 2030?</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 65</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	<p>Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>			<p>Ms Evans: Senator, to make sure that I understand your question, with the 250 million tonnes that's in the roadmap by 2040, do you want to know how much of that would have occurred by 2030?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes. I am trying to understand whether you have a profile. I assume that we don't start next week and we've got 250 million tonnes—</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, that's right. It grows over time.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: It grows over time.</p> <p>Ms Evans: It would have to.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Do we have a pathway? Is that an outcome of the analysis that you've done?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to take it on notice and look at what we've got. We did think about it. With most of these technologies, as we were speaking about before, the time frame in which they might start to be deployed is more 2030 to 2050. I think that most of the abatement is starting to occur, and 250 million tonnes isn't the final amount. I'm not sure by how much, looking at 2030, we will see the shifts because the technologies take a longer time than that to start coming on.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Ms Evans, I am not asking you to do new work based on the resources at your disposal. I am asking whether you have done analysis that provides a profile of the abatement that we would expect over time, or whether you've just done a point-in-time analysis for 2040.</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, we definitely looked at the timing in which the technologies would be deployed, and that gives us the abatement. That's an over-time number. When we put it together, we thought that by 2040 those were the sorts of numbers, and 250 million tonnes is the number that we have. I can take it on notice and see whether we can bring that down, in any kind of a time line, earlier than that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could I ask you to table any documentation that exists within the department today that shows that kind of analysis, where there is a profile established over—</p> <p>Ms Evans: Senator, I don't think we can do that today because it exists in a number of different places. We would need to bring it together. I'll take it on notice and provide it later.</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>CEFC investments</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: ...</p> <p>The inquiry into the legislation made it clear that the CEFC can already invest in energy storage, transmission and grid stabilisation. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: It is correct that we can currently invest in all of those things.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: So, if item 32 of the bill requiring that investments comply with the minister's investment mandate wasn't included in your act, could you still make investments in the storage and in the grid?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: We can continue to make investments in storage, transmission and distribution. We can continue to do that under our current act and we can through the GRF amending bill as well. It's really up to us where we might place that investment.</p> <p>Ms Evans: If I can add another clarification: the reason for that amendment to the definition of 'low-emissions technology' is there is that—you're quite right—the CEFC could choose to make those types</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 115</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>of investments anyway under the current act, but it's still left up to the board's definition of 'low-emissions technology' whether they're there or not. So, to create the Grid Reliability Fund, our advice was that you need a different legal reason to construct the act in a way that can establish the fund. You need to be sure that those particular things were there, and so that's why they've been added to the definition, but it doesn't actually change the discretion of the board with regard to the \$10 billion fund.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. If I was less tired, that would make perfect sense! Could you possibly put that on notice and give me a little more detail? I can see the logic, but it's just not quite penetrating at the minute.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p>	
18.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>CCS portion in upcoming bill</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: Has the minister specifically said that that CCS portion will be in the upcoming bill?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'm certain that, at the time the funding announcements and so on were made in the prebudget period, the intention to ensure the mandate for and the ability of ARENA and CEFC to support activities under the road map was made clear. We can take it on notice as to whether the minister has specifically referenced the fact that that relates to legislative change—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Would you mind? Yes, please. Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: It certainly has been picked up in media commentary that it does.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you for taking on notice the specifics of whether the CCS is—</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: It's inherent that it has to.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you, and sorry for interrupting.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Waters, could you clarify what you mean by the 'upcoming bill'.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes. Not the current bill; the one that's foreshadowed.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: The bill that's in the parliament is the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020. My understanding of the evidence—and it's late at night—is that there will be no amendment to this bill in respect of CCS.</p> <p>Ms Evans: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We are as one.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. But then you went on to say, 'Further amendments'. I think perhaps you meant 'a future bill'?</p> <p>Ms Evans: A future bill, yes.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 118</p>
19.	<p>Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's</p>	<p>Urquhart</p>	<p>Kyoto carryover credits</p>	<p>1. Is the Department aware of the letter from nine international law Professors which says the Government's plan to use Kyoto Protocol carryover credits to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement has no basis in international law?</p> <p>2. Why does the Government reject the arguments of these international law experts?</p>	<p>29/10/2020 Written</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	greenhouse gas emissions			<p>3. Has the Government sought legal advice on its proposed use of Kyoto carryover credits?</p> <p>4. Does the Department have the advice to say it's legal?</p> <p>5. Is it fair to say the legal basis for use of these credits to meet Paris emission reduction obligations is not settled and a potential risk to the government's climate change strategy?</p> <p>6. Does the government have a plan B to meet its targets if it cannot secure the right to use Kyoto carryover credits? What is plan B? If no, why not – wouldn't that be prudent?</p> <p>7. What percentage will Kyoto carryover credits count for in meeting the government's emissions reduction targets of 26-28% by 2030?</p>	
20.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Urquhart	Offshore Wind	<p>1. The DISER previously indicated that the Offshore Clean Energy Infrastructure Bill would go to Parliament in mid-2020. What is the revised timeline for this Bill to be presented to Parliament?</p> <p>2. Budget Paper Two allocated \$4.8 million over two years from 2020-21 to support the development of a regulatory framework for offshore clean energy infrastructure industry (p.119). Can you detail what actions this funding covers?</p> <p>3. Also in Budget Paper Two, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Authority is allocated \$700,000 in 2020-21 and \$700,000 in 2021-22 for 'JobMaker Plan - investment in new energy technologies' (p.35). What kind of new technologies are covered in this funding? Does this cover offshore clean energy technology or other technologies?</p> <p>4. On 30 March 2019, the Department approved a deed of licence to allow Offshore Energy Pty Ltd (OEPL) to undertake resource exploration for an offshore wind farm off Victoria. I understand that Newcastle Offshore Wind also made a similar application for an offshore wind exploration licence to the Department in January 2020, however, no licence has been issued while the Offshore Clean Energy Infrastructure Bill is being developed. Most offshore wind projects require at least two years of wind data, so this delay is preventing a significant project from progressing.</p> <p>5. Given this legislation is delayed, is the Department considering issuing an interim exploration licence?</p> <p>6. Has the department received any other applications for an offshore wind exploration licence, in any part of Australia?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
21.	Program 2.1: Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions	Waters	Emissions Reduction	<p>1. Is there a requirement for the Australian Government to submit an updated 2030 target at COP26, even if that submission can be the same as our existing NDC?</p> <p>2. Is there a requirement or request for the Australian Government to submit a more ambitious 2030 target at COP26?</p> <p>3. Under the existing rules of the Paris Agreement, by when will Australia be required to submit a 2035 target?</p> <p>4. By when does the Government intend to complete its "long-term emissions reduction strategy"? Will it still be completed prior to COP 26 in November 2021?</p>	30/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				5. Will Cabinet approval be required for the “long-term emissions reduction strategy”? If so, when is it expected that that strategy will come before the Cabinet?	
22.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Liddell Report and response	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I think you just said that the report was delivered to the minister in the first quarter of this year. What date was it provided to the minister?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'd have to take that question on notice, Senator. I don't have the exact date that it was submitted, keeping in mind that it was submitted to both governments—to the New South Wales and federal governments. I can take that question on notice and come back to you with that level of detail this afternoon.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: But it was the first quarter of this year?</p> <p>Ms Parry: It was released on 24 April, so it was submitted to the governments prior to that.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: My recollection, Senator, is that it was during March, but let's come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay. My advice is that the report was released on 16 September.</p> <p>Ms Parry: The report was not released on 16 September. The report was released on 24 April 2020.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: Sorry; 16 September this year, Senator?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: No.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 34
23.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Public release of the Liddell report	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask the department to just review their evidence in terms of the timing of the public release of the Liddell report?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I have, Senator. The report was released publicly on 24 April 2020 and the government response was released on 15 September 2020.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: By what means was it released? Was it published on the website at that time?</p> <p>Ms Parry: Yes, it would have been.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: When you say, 'it would have been', that's a kind of contingent statement. Was it or wasn't it?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I can take that on notice, but generally the way that we release reports is to put them on energy.gov.au and it would have been likely on the New South Wales website as well, but that I need to double check.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay. So the industry had it at that time from April?</p> <p>Ms Parry: It was publicly released on 24 April.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: Senator, can we check that? I think I misled you before by saying the report was finalised in March and it was finalised with New South Wales colleagues on 24 April. In terms of its public release, its public release was on 15 September.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 36

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator McALLISTER: I see.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: We were confused around when it was provided—and apologies for that—to ministers and when it was publicly released.</p>	
24.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>Assumptions about the availability of supply</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: So will you make assumptions about the availability of supply based on state laws banning fracking, for example?</p> <p>Ms Parry: As you can appreciate, there will be assumptions made and looking at where the supply is coming from. That ties into, again, the strategic basin plans that the government announced as part of their overall gas package. That is to look at where the supply is coming from currently, where it could come from in the future and how we move gas more efficiently around the country at the most efficient price to the right place.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Will those assumptions be made public?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 38-39</p>
25.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>Number of task force staff</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: I have one or two final follow-ups on that and then I am done. Is the task force that I have referenced the same thing as when you talked about the various collaboration of agencies or is that like a subset, sort of steering committee?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: That is within the department; so within my group, a dedicated task force is being established.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: How many folk are on that?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We are still considering that.</p> <p>Ms Parry: We're still forming that.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I don't know what the upper limit is going to be—I think that was the aim of your question about how many people will be working on that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: At the moment, I would have to take on notice exactly how many people, but it is basically people who have been working on the development of this proposal and then taking it into an implementation stage. We're going to have to second expertise as well as bring in expertise in from around the department. That's what we're in the process of doing.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 40</p>
26.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Hughes</p>	<p>Load shedding event</p>	<p>Senator HUGHES: Just in response to Senator McAllister and just to clarify, last year there was load shedding around the Hunter, including at Tomago smelter, which would suggest that perhaps the reliability and the load is not there currently, even with Liddell, and that, if Tomago smelter goes offline for three hours, that's the end of the smelter; it cannot be restarted. It did load shed for, I believe, 2½ hours last year in a bid to maintain its contribution to the market. Is it not the case that there are still reliability and security issues already with Liddell still in the market?</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 43-44</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Ms Parry: That's right. I would have to take on notice the specifics around the load shedding event last year. I don't have that information to hand. I'm happy to come back and respond to that specifically this afternoon. But certainly that's the importance of having dispatchable capacity in the market.</p>	
27.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Grant to Shine for coal plant feasibility study</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: The matter has been referred to the Auditor-General, who has agreed to investigate the process regarding the awarding of the grant. Has the department had contact with the Auditor-General about this investigation?</p> <p>Ms Parry: Yes, we have.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could you just tell me what the nature of that contact has been?</p> <p>Ms Parry: We received a letter notifying that the Auditor-General was undertaking an assurance audit. We have had an inception meeting to discuss the logistics of access to files et cetera. I would have to take on notice if there has been any ongoing communication between ourselves and the ANAO. We're fully cooperating, obviously, with the audit, and that is an ongoing inquiry.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 44-45</p>
28.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Employment benefits of gas led recovery package</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: The government announced a package of measures to support a gas led recovery on 15 September, and I want to ask some questions about that. Are you the right person for that, Ms Parry?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Does the government have an estimate of the employment benefits of the package?</p> <p>Ms Parry: In terms of the job benefits in relation to the gas measures that I'm particularly responsible for, which is around pipeline, consumer benefits, transparency, et cetera, what we would see is that lower gas prices and lower energy prices support consumers and, in particular, the manufacturing sector which, in turn, employs over 80,000 people. So the government is seeing gas as a really key enabler for jobs and keeping jobs secure, particularly in the manufacturing and CNI sector. There are direct jobs benefits in, obviously, the resources sector and in the gas extraction and liquefaction, LNG and export industry, but I might either take that on notice and recall it from my colleagues, or we can direct that to my resources colleagues.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I think what you're saying is that in terms of the measures you are responsible for, none of them have a direct jobs impact, although we can inquire of the resources people what the direct jobs impacts are in the measures associated with them.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Just if it helps kind of delineate, within the government's package there are 13 measures across unlocking supply, efficient transportation and empowering consumers. The ones that sit with me that I can talk to are around transportation and empowering consumers. And we can take the question on notice for our resources colleagues around the jobs benefits and impacts around resource extraction, because that is a separate areas. In terms of the jobs focus of the particular areas that I'm responsible for,</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 79 & 80</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				it is around lowering gas prices, it is around moving gas to particular customer bases and it is around enabling a commercial, industrial and manufacturing base, which does support a significant amount of jobs.	
29.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	List of responsibilities	<p>Senator McALLISTER: This is a little tedious and I'm sorry to ask you do this, but I think for the purposes of this estimates and coming estimates sessions, it might be worth going through the initiatives that were included in the release and just understanding which ones are your responsibility, Ms Parry.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Absolutely, I'm very happy to do so.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: To assist you further, we might take that on notice so we can give you advance notice of that for next time.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: You're saying don't do it now?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We'll take on notice the question you just raised—the list—so we can give you early notice of that for next time.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 79-80
30.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Input to Treasury modelling	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Okay. That is the question I'm asking. I appreciate that your department may not have commissioned any modelling. Were you engaged in any process where Treasury sought your input on modelling for economic outcomes from the package?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'd have to take that question on notice. We do have parts of the department who do work with Treasury and who are involved in the data and analytics portion. They may have been involved with some modelling underpinning the package. I'm not aware of it, but I'm happy to take that question on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 80
31.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Job outcome at strategic basin site	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Mr Sullivan, from your evidence it seems to me that the team that developed this gas-led recovery package asserts that there are jobs outcomes in the near term. What are they, Mr Sullivan?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: At the strategic basin site?</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: As Ms Parry said, that comes under outcome 1.3, and that appears before the Economics Committee next Thursday, but I'm happy to take that on notice if this committee would like that evidence.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: ... You have knowledge about the jobs assertions associated with the gas-led recovery package. Is that correct, Mr Sullivan?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: On the resources side, from memory—I don't have that information with me; as I said, it's a matter for next week, in terms of estimates—we have job estimate numbers. Part of the modelling work that Ms Parry referred to with respect to the National Gas Infrastructure Plan will also be about giving greater clarity to how many jobs, when and where.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 81-82

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator McALLISTER: So, your assertion is that there are some jobs, but you can't tell me how many, and we'll have to wait until next week? Come on. I'm asking about a key package in the budget, related to jobs recovery and administered by your department, and you're telling me that you cannot tell me the jobs figures until next week?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I can take that on notice.</p>	
32.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Waters	Delta life of coal plant guarantee	<p>Senator WATERS: Will you be seeking a guarantee from Delta that they won't increase generation or extend the life of the power station?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'll take that question on notice. But we have not yet developed the guidelines and we have not yet received the applications. I think it would be premature to say what we would and wouldn't be doing at this point.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 84
33.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Van	Bass Strait gas field supply	<p>Senator VAN: Sure. Sorry. How much has the supply of the Bass Strait gas field decreased over the last 10 years?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I may have to take that question on notice, unless my colleagues in the room—</p> <p>Senator VAN: It is quite okay if you need to.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: The largest decline in production around Bass Strait will begin, from memory, in 2022 on current projections. In terms of east coast supply, that correlates to when we are starting to see shortfalls in the outlook around gas supply in the east coast market. With respect to the overall trend in Victoria, we would have to take that on notice in terms of—</p> <p>Senator VAN: Of course.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: But my recollection is that from 2022 onwards is when the current decline is projected to really kick in.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 86
34.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Liddell report advice to Minister	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I just want to clarify your earlier clarification, Mr Sullivan. I asked you whether you had provided advice to the minister, the Prime Minister or the department of the Prime Minister in relation to a 250-megawatt gap, and you said, 'No.' You have subsequently indicated that you do believe that there is a 250-megawatt gap. I'm just a little unclear to whom you provided that advice.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I'll check the <i>Hansard</i> with respect to what I did say no to. I definitely didn't provide advice to PM&C or the PM with respect to 250 megawatts. In terms of discussions with Minister Taylor, we did discuss what are plausible options around what could happen in April and that's where I went to saying that a plausible scenario, or possible scenario, is that a 250-megawatt gap in the 1,000-megawatt target is possible in April. But in terms of—</p>	20/10/2020 Page 88-89

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator McALLISTER: Just for clarity, Mr Sullivan, are you saying that the conversation took place in April or that the gap would emerge in April?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: No, this is the government's time frame with respect to April and the 1,000 megawatt.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: And when did this discussion with Mr Taylor take place?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I'd have to check that on notice with respect to when we discussed the response to the Liddell Taskforce. This is an ongoing matter in terms of advice to government.</p>	
35.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Correspondence with Oakley Greenwood	<p>Senator McALLISTER: When did the department last have correspondence with Oakley Greenwood about stage 1 of the report?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'd have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Are there outstanding matters that you're in negotiations with the consultant about?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'll take that question on notice. Again, the department is analysing the findings of the report, the government has made grant commitments as a result of the phase 1 findings of the report and we are in the process of finalising it.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 90
36.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Waters	Consideration of climate impacts in feasibility study	<p>Senator WATERS: If climate impacts weren't considered in deciding whether to award money to do a feasibility study, will the climate impacts be considered as part of the feasibility study?</p> <p>Ms Parry: In terms of the feasibility study, I'm happy to defer to Mr Blowers on this, but in terms of the components of the feasibility study, I'm happy to walk you through the main activities.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Is climate one of them?</p> <p>Ms Parry: It's not an explicit point within the feasibility study. If you want to take it under this regard, for instance it is looking at what environmental approvals the project would need to receive at both the state and federal level.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: We don't have any legislation that requires climate to be considered under our federal environmental laws, so sadly that won't capture it either. Perhaps if you could either table or provide on notice, is there anything in those—</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'm happy to walk you through the type of activities.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I would like to know, but I have very limited time and a few things to get through, so could you take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Parry: We'll take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 92
37.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and	Waters	Background dispatchable capacity in NSW	<p>Senator WATERS: Could you provide on notice what the background dispatchable capacity in New South Wales would be, including a list of all existing dispatchable capacity? That's so we can work out exactly what the baseline is that the 1,000 megawatts needs to be added to to meet the stated gap. Is that clear?</p>	20/10/2020 Page 94

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	affordable energy			<p>Ms Parry: Repeat it one more time for me, Senator, just so I make sure that I'm really clear about what you're asking and we can make sure that we're answering the right question.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you provide on notice what the background dispatchable capacity in New South Wales would be, including a list of all existing dispatchable capacity, so we can know what baseline the 1,000 megawatts would need to be added to? Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Yes.</p>	
38.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Waters	Surplus capacity modelling	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. So the task force didn't model the scenario where there was more surplus capacity than was needed simply to deliver a price outcome. So on what modelling are you relying?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I think there are a couple of questions there. I'll turn to my colleague for some of the modelling specifics, but one of the key indicators in the modelling outcomes that the government was most interested in is what happens under a no-replacement scenario. So what happens? What's the price impact?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but that's not the scenario I'm asking you about. I'm asking you about the scenario which was modelled, which says that there's surplus capacity, but you're adding further surplus capacity in order to reach a price point. There was no modelling about the impacts on price in that scenario—that is my understanding.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Waters, are you happy for that modelling information to be put on notice? We've got Senator Patrick looking to ask questions, you've done your 15 minutes and we have a dinner break in five minutes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. Thank you.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 95
39.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Waters	AEMO report	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Can I just ask you to provide on notice the AEMO report. There's a reference to it in appendix D of the task force report. AEMO's done a public version of the generation replacement study. It's referenced as attached, but I understand it's not attached. Can we have that public version of the report, please.</p> <p>Ms Parry: We'll take that on notice. Thank you, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you very much.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 95
40.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Patrick	Shine Energy – Job creation and grant application	<p>Senator PATRICK: In relation to the Shine matter, the government put out an announcement that it would create 2,000 jobs during construction and 600 operational jobs. Where do those figures come from?</p> <p>Ms Parry: Can I take that on notice so I can make sure that I source those job numbers correctly?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: What was the source for that?</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's what I'm asking.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Yes. Can I take that on notice, please?</p>	20/10/2020 Page 95-96

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. If you can't find those numbers then, if any announcement that the government has made in respect of jobs that would be created—</p> <p>Ms Parry: Jobs vis-a-vis Shine Energy?</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's correct.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Okay. Again I would emphasise that the grant is for a feasibility study.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sorry, okay. Normally in a grant application there would be something that says: 'This is what we want to do. This is how many jobs it's going to create. This is the economic benefit that will flow from this particular grant that the government might give.' So I'm guessing there might have been some information in the grant application.</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. In fact, I ask you to provide the committee with the grant application as well, please.</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'm sorry, Senator. Grant applications are commercial in confidence. It was marked as such by Shine Energy, because they do provide commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: No, grant applications will contain all sorts of information. That might include the number of jobs, and it's for a prospective project. The rules of the Senate are that, if you wish to not provide the committee with a document, you'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Okay. I offer to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: The minister can properly advance a public interest immunity claim. I signal that I will now do an FOI on the grant. My score against the government on FOIs at the moment with the Information Commissioner is government 0, Rex 5. I will pursue it. If people are obstructing the committee in getting information, I will take that further as well.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: In fairness, Senator, that's noted. We understand what you said, and we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sure, but it's just a broad claim like that. I accept that some information in a grant application would be confidential, but things like how many jobs would be created are not harmful to a corporation.</p> <p>Ms Parry: I fully accept that, and I did undertake to take that question on notice.</p>	
41.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	Patrick	Shine Energy – Due Diligence	<p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you. The other thing I'd like to ask about is that a gentleman—I didn't catch the name—talked about the due diligence that was carried out. Who carried out that due diligence? This was bankruptcy searches and so forth?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: The department did.</p> <p>Ms Parry: The department.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. You didn't contract that or ask the AGS to do that due diligence? You did that yourself?</p> <p>Ms Parry: We did that ourselves.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 96

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. Presumably these searches are public searches. I also ask that you provide and table those. Again, I would imagine that there's nothing commercially sensitive in respect of a document that you may have got from ASIC just by paying a fee, so I'd ask that you provide that.</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much. That's my questions, Chair.</p>	
42.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Decision to commission Oakley Greenwood</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I just want to go back to the decision to commission Oakley Greenwood to provide advice. I think you said the Prime Minister made a statement around 28 October indicating that the process was on foot and that the next steps would be dependent on this report that would be provided by Oakley Greenwood?</p> <p>Ms Parry: That's right.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Who initiated the involvement of Oakley Greenwood. Was that a recommendation from the department or did the minister's office identify Oakley Greenwood as a suitable provider of services?</p> <p>Ms Parry: It went to tender to deliver that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I see. Was that prior to 28 October or before that time?</p> <p>Ms Parry: As we indicated previously, the government took a decision about the program and the objectives they were trying to achieve with the program, studying that North and Central Queensland energy consumer needs. In order to deliver on that program and to undertake that strategic study, the department went out to tender and commissioned Oakley Greenwood to carry out that study.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Was it an open tender?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I'd have to take that question on notice. It would have likely come off the panels that we work with, but I simply don't have the information on what the structure of that tender looked like. I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Blowers: I believe so, but we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could you provide the tender number?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I can take that on notice. We will provide that tender number</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 97-98</p>
43.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Analysis of advice from AEMO</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: In 2018, in the ISP, AEMO said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Queensland has excellent quality renewable resources. Energy storage projects in this area could support the abundance of correlated solar projects in this locality. However, due to a recent surge in renewable generator connections in this area, and the resulting energy surplus, further large-scale generator connections are unlikely to be efficient in North Queensland until existing thermal generation in Central Queensland starts to retire ... <p>Has the department undertaken any analysis of this conclusion?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I can take that on notice. Obviously, we are heavily involved in the <i>Integrated system plan</i>. Was that quote from the <i>Integrated system plan</i>?</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 98</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes, it was—from 2018.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Obviously, we take the <i>Integrated system plan</i> very seriously and look at the analysis that is undertaken by AEMO through the ISP. But, again, I call to your attention that some of the things that AEMO look at are not necessarily the range of considerations that the government looks at. So AEMO, for instance, doesn't plan for price outcomes, in a sense. They obviously have to consider impacts on consumers, but the primary considerations of AEMO are as a market operator. So government takes in a range of considerations on reliability, systems security and affordability.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I apologise; did you say that you had not done any analysis on that particular conclusion, or that you would take it on notice?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I said that I would take it on notice. I can't recall whether we zeroed in on that particular conclusion, but we certainly would have been briefed. We have read the ISP, and we take the ISP very seriously.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I would like you to table any material that you do locate on checking the records that goes to an analysis of that conclusion. For clarity, I'm trying to understand why it is that government prefers the advice from a private sector consultant to the body that's charged with running the national market.</p>	
44.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Delay in response regarding grant applications</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: When the program was first announced a fact sheet was distributed by the department indicating that grant applications for eligible community organisations would open in October 2019. One of my colleagues, Mr Josh Wilson, the member for Fremantle, emailed the department on 29 October asking what was going on with that. He didn't receive a response from the department until 22 January, three months later. Why was there such a delay in the response?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: I'd have to take that on notice. I haven't got that email before me.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Do you have any documents to table which would provide a reason why it took over three months to respond to correspondence from a member of parliament?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: The officials have taken it on notice, but it would probably be helpful if you could provide a copy of the email so that, in finding out what happened, they are aware of what email address it actually went to.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes. I'd prefer to confirm with Mr Wilson that he's happy for the correspondence to be tabled; however, I can tell you that it was sent to the address titled EECProgram@environment.gov.au, which would seem to be the relevant address. He'd been corresponding with a departmental officer, whom I won't name, for some time about grants, but when he emailed her in October it took a very long time for any information to come back.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: The email address and the date, I imagine, will suffice for officials who have taken it on notice. Thanks, Senator.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 99-100</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

45.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Whish-Wilson</p>	<p>Marinus Link Business Case Assessment</p>	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay, let's leave that out. Have you looked at any kind of business case or economic analysis for Marinus Link at this point in time? Mr Sullivan: There has been initial work done—that was commissioned out of the original allocation from the Commonwealth, which was made in the last budget. I'd have to take on notice the details of that. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Great. Are you aware if the project economics is contingent on Robbins Island Wind Farm proceeding in Tasmania? Mr Sullivan: I'll correct the record, on notice, if I'm wrong here, but my understanding is that it's been generic amounts of renewables as well as potentially Battery of the Nation inputs into Marinus, rather than specific wind farms or specific other endeavours. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. There was no major baseload necessary from Robbins Island for this project to be economic or to proceed, as far as you're aware? Mr Sullivan: Not that I'm aware of.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 101-102</p>
46.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Whish-Wilson</p>	<p>Marinus Link Reports</p>	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Two reports have been released recently on the economics of Marinus Link. One was released by the Tasmanian Small Business Council, which they had commissioned from Goanna Energy Consulting. Have you or the department seen that report, and have you provided any advice to the minister on the conclusion of that report? Mr Sullivan: No, I'm not aware of it, but we— Ms Parry: We can take that on notice. We're not aware of that landing in our patch. Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could, because the Small Business Council supports Marinus Link, but the report very clearly shows that Tasmanian consumers will be at significant risk from this project if it proceeds. I would be interested to hear your views on that. Could you also comment on whether you've seen a recent analysis released by the Bob Brown Foundation, which commissioned a report by Mountain and Percy from Victoria University's Energy Policy Centre. The report questions the project's economics. Have you seen that research report or provided any advice to the minister? Mr Sullivan: Sorry, was that Middleton's report? Senator WHISH-WILSON: No, it was Bruce Mountain and Percy, from Victoria University's Energy Policy Centre. Mr Sullivan: I've read the press reporting of that article. I haven't read the content of it. I'm happy to give you that information on notice if we've done anything more in terms of that analysis from those individuals, who I think have provided other reports that are against pumped hydro in general. But the allocation-of-risk issue you mention, from the Small Business Council, is one that is being discussed, and it is an issue of who bears that risk in terms of consumers; where the cost allocation is; and whether the current cost allocation for transmission is still correct, given the amount of investment that's happening in transmission over the next decade. In Australia, as in a lot of other countries—the world's grid is basically going to double over the next 10 years, due to variable renewables coming in—we need</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 102</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>to go back and look at that allocation, that fair-cost allocation issue, around transmission, and we're doing that collectively with Tasmania and other jurisdictions, as well as the AMC. That will be considered by ministers through the Energy National Cabinet Reform Committee process.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: The Mountain and Percy report from Victoria University's Energy Policy Centre basically outlines alternative scenarios that they believe would be more economic—especially for the Victorian government—including battery storage. If you could have a look at that report and give me any comments on that, that would also be appreciated. Has battery storage been considered as an alternative to Battery of the Nation and Marinus Link, within Victoria?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Officials, insofar as they've seen the report or would be looking at it and providing any briefings, can take that on notice. Obviously it's not a consulting information service to have all reports analysed as they come along, but if there is evidence or a response to that, they can do so, taking your question on notice there.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: But I can add to that in terms of the Victorian government position, because we do meet with the Victorian government, as we do with other jurisdictions, quite regularly with respect to transmission. They have been quite clear that they support all the ISP projects. I think they have a view that they would prefer VNI West to come before Marinus—that's a view—but they also are openly supportive of Marinus, as a government. So I understand that, while the Melbourne policy institute may have commissioned the work—and I'm not sure if that was targeted for the Victorian government or whether it was just done independently—</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: It was done independently.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: but we'll seek the views of our Victorian colleagues on that as well.</p>	
47.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>McAllister</p>	<p>Energy Efficient Communities Program – Departmental Advice</p>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: But in this instance you had essentially a speech announcing a fund and then a budget measure announcing a fund and then an extended process to design the fund, which meant that the time lines that were originally promised during an election campaign were nowhere close to being met. In the program design, when was it determined that two grants per electorate would be awarded?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: Senator, I believe I told you that the grants guidelines were approved by the minister on 16 March, so that's when it would have been decided.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Was it the department's advice that this would be the best way to administer this money?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: We wouldn't normally reveal the content of our advice to ministers.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's not public interest immunity, Chair—advice to government. It's explicitly stated, actually. Do any of you people actually read the witness's guide to—</p> <p>CHAIR: Order! Senator Patrick, you don't have the call. You've made your point.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I think he should answer the question, Chair, as a point of order.</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't have the answer in front of me, but I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	<p>20/10/2020 Page 104</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator PATRICK: People should read the witness's guide to Senate estimates.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Patrick, you can raise a point of order, but you can't just speak without being given the call.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Sure.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Patrick does make a valid point. In the introductory text I read out today, advice to ministers is specifically called out as something that doesn't meet a public interest immunity test. You need to refer to the minister and highlight an express or specific harm that would be caused by the release.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Thank you, Chair. We'll happily take that on notice.</p>	
48.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Energy Efficient Communities Program – Grant Approval	<p>Senator McALLISTER: In some electorates, as I understand it, no grants were approved. I don't believe any grants were approved in Perth. In Pearce and Stirling, only one grant was approved in each of those electorates. What was the reason for that?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: I'd have to take that on notice. I suspect that if it is a demand-driven grants round and people don't apply for it or if applications aren't submitted in the correct format or they aren't submitted in accordance with the guidelines then nobody would be successful.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 104
49.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	McAllister	Energy Efficient Communities Program – announcement process	<p>Senator McALLISTER: I want to ask about the announcement process. When did the department publish on their website the successful applicants?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: I don't believe they have been announced yet. Only two of the rounds have been completed. I'd have to take on notice why they haven't been published.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I understood that they had been published on 8 September.</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: Okay. You know more than me, then.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: On 6 August, Mr Taylor put out a media release announcing that the grants had been awarded. Then, on 11 August, the home affairs minister, Peter Dutton, put a media release on his website which congratulated the recipients in his electorate. I can table those statements, if that is useful. They are drawn from the websites of those members of parliament. In the documents already circulated, you can see Ms Ley was already out on 5 September congratulating local recipients in her electorate. Why were government MPs informed of successful applications before they were published?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: Sorry, can you just run me through those timelines again? My colleague has just pointed out that I do have before me that the media release from Minister Taylor on the outcomes for grants under the demand driven grants opportunity was on 6 August.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: That media release doesn't include the recipients. I'm asking when the recipients were made public?</p> <p>Mr Gaddes: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 104-105

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator McALLISTER: I see. My question is this. All these government members appeared to know who in their electorate had won a grant, but non-government members were not informed. Is that standard practice—for the department to brief government members about a community grants program?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: The assumption you made then was that that was a matter for the department. We don't know whether it was or not in this case. So I don't think the underlying premise of your question applies here.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I'll ask it in a different way. Did the department brief non-government members about the outcomes in their electorates?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: We'll take on notice whether we briefed anyone on those outcomes. I think where Mr Fredericks was going is that we're not sure that we actually did any of that informing post the announcement and the press release. But we'll take on notice how those announcements were provided to both government and non-government members and where that came from.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: What I would like to understand, just for clarity—understanding that you've taken it on notice—is: when did the department communicate with successful applicants about the outcomes of the grants round? Did the department communicate with government members about the outcomes in their electorate and how and when? Did you communicate with non-government members and how and when?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We'll take that on notice.</p>	
50.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	Rennick	<p>The Australian Energy Market Operator</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The AEMO ISP 2020 relies on CSIRO's GenCost as a fundamental input for deriving system costs across the scenarios. GenCost states that it uses a carbon price trajectory in its model to determine future build rates and technology costs. There is no system-wide carbon price in Australia, and not likely to be over the 20yr timeframe of the AEMO ISP projections. Will the ISP 2022 include a scenario that does not include a built-in carbon price, and if not, why not? 2. If all AEMO projections rely on GenCost and its built-in carbon price, how does AEMO justify its system cost projections? 3. In a recent interview, the CEO described AEMO staff as prioritising decarbonisation over keeping the lights on. Does AEMO have anything written into its charter, tasks or duties, that mentions emissions reduction or decarbonisation? 4. Which areas of the electricity system does AEMO claim to have benefited from the organisation prioritising decarbonisation? 5. AEMO are concerned about unconstrained growth in rooftop PV in places like Adelaide and Perth. What interventions do AEMO expect may have to occur as a result of the oversupply of rooftop solar, and why? 6. What are the direct consequences of an intervention of this nature? 7. What does the term 'cascading failure' mean, in the context of oversupply by rooftop PV? 	<p>30/10/2020 Written</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

			<p>8. Is this a desirable outcome for the power network?</p> <p>9. How has the power network in these areas become so risky?</p> <p>10. Is this an example of open market competitiveness?</p> <p>11. The Energy Connect project, joining the electricity networks of NSW and SA, has recently had a cost blowout (from \$1.5b to \$2.4b), with both TransGrid and ElectraNet requesting additional funds to complete the project. Will this project be re-evaluated?</p> <p>12. What percentage of electricity capacity in the NEM is publicly owned, or publicly contracted?</p> <p>13. What percentage of NEM turnover is via publicly owned or publicly contracted electricity generation?</p> <p>14. If a significant portion of the NEM is publicly contracted, is this better or worse for market competition?</p> <p>15. Why does the ISP, an Australian east coast transmission plan, prioritise wind and solar over other technologies, when the RET obligation has been filled, and there is no emissions reduction requirement in the National Electricity Obligation?</p> <p>16. What effect does AEMO anticipate that an Australian electricity transmission plan, covering just the NEM, will have on global temperature?</p> <p>17. Has AEMO ever been directed to prioritise emissions reduction or decarbonisation of the electricity system, rather than prioritising lowest cost and highest reliability?</p> <p>18. How many km of publicly funded transmission network is AEMO recommending be built up until 2040?</p> <p>19. What is the capital cost of this transmission?</p> <p>20. What is the annual operating expense of this transmission?</p> <p>21. What is the ‘transmission only’ cost increase that will go onto consumer bills in each region VIC, NSW, SA, QLD, TAS?</p> <p>22. Can AEMO confirm that wide-spread demand management is one of the methods required to integrate more wind and solar into the grid?</p> <p>23. Is it AEMO preference for customers and businesses to reduce their electricity usage, rather than have a competitive market construct a new coal-fired power station?</p> <p>24. With subsidies, targets, grants, cheap finance, direct government spending, non-competitive government offtakes and contracts with wind and solar companies, all driving investment in renewables, can AEMO describe how their projections can possibly be based on the principle of an open market?</p> <p>25. Is AEMO intending to develop a subsidy free, open market scenario?</p> <p>26. Considering the risks being encountered with minimum demand due to rooftop solar, and the rooftop solar growth acknowledged in AEMO reports, is AEMO accounting for the minimum demand risk in reliability projections and costs?</p> <p>27. Is AEMO recommending that state governments restrict the growth in rooftop solar?</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>28. Does AEMO acknowledge that chemical storage batteries such as the SA big battery, are not able to replace thermal generators for the purpose of supplying bulk power?</p> <p>29. AEMO Chief system design and engineering officer Alex Wonhas was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald and said that transformation of the electricity system would cost in the order of \$100 billion. How will this amount be funded and what impact will it have on power prices?</p> <p>30. Given energy is the responsibility of state governments and noting the fact that most state governments have privatised their energy assets, why is the Federal Government subsidising rent seekers to provide energy when these same rent seekers were saying 20 years ago that energy should be privatised because the market will "fix it"?</p> <p>31. Has privatisation introduced more volatility, uncertainty and higher costs into the energy market?</p> <p>32. Why is the Federal Government responsible for regulating what is a state responsibility? Could a history of how these responsibilities have been transferred to the Commonwealth please be provided?</p> <p>33. Is there a benchmark that has tracked national energy prices over the last 30 years and if so, could you please provide a link? If not, why not given that a benchmark would provide transparency as to energy costs?</p> <p>34. Excluding pumped hydro - what is the average life span of batteries that are currently being used to store power in the market? Could the answer be given in years and cycles?</p> <p>35. How many batteries like the Telsa battery at the Hornsdale reserve are needed to store enough energy for the grid if Australia was to go 100% renewable and what would this cost?</p> <p>36. What is the average life span of wind turbines?</p> <p>37. What is the average life span of solar panels?</p> <p>38. As the market becomes more unreliable due to the increase of wind and solar, what will the additional cost of security services like synchronous condensers be? Is there some sort of algorithm that shows as x MW of renewable energy is generated then X number of synchronous condensers will be required?</p> <p>39. What is the current breakup of energy costs between generation, transmission, storage, security and recycling?</p> <p>40. What is the expected breakup of energy costs between generation, transmission, storage, security and recycling in 2035?</p>	
51.	<p>Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy</p>	<p>Waters</p>	<p>Gas producers and usage</p>	<p>1. What was the total PJ for domestic gas production combined with imports from the Joint Petroleum Development Area for 2018-19?</p> <p>2. What was the total PJ and total percentage of all gas produced in Australia that was exported as LNG for 2018-19?</p> <p>3. What was the total PJ and total percentage of all gas produced in Australia that was used for LNG plant own use for 2018-19?</p>	<p>30/10/2020 Written</p>

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>4. What was the total PJ and total percentage of all gas produced in Australia that was used for manufacturing (excluding LNG plant own use) for 2018-19?</p> <p>5. What was the total PJ and total percentage of all gas produced in Australia that was used by the manufacturing sector explicitly as feedstock for 2018-19 (as opposed to process heat, on-site electricity or other uses)?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. For gas use as a feedstock, what was the total PJ use for gas as a feedstock for hydrogen (whether for ammonia or otherwise)?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. For gas use as a feedstock, what was the total PJ use for gas as a feedstock for plastics (whether ethylene, propylene or otherwise)?</p> <p>6. Does the Department keep a list of Australia’s largest gas users by company?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. If so, please provide a list of Australia’s 20 largest gas users and their annual natural gas demand in petajoules</p>	
52.	Program 3.1: Supporting reliable, secure and affordable energy	Rennick	Energy generation	<p>1. A number of energy providers are also asking the federal government to provide certainty in the market. Do these energy providers not realise that you don’t get certainty in a market, you get risk, and if they want certainty, they should have never advocated for privatisation in the first place?</p> <p>2. How much do generators pay for negative wholesale prices as a result of oversupply of renewable energy and how much of this is passed onto consumers?</p> <p>3. Is AEMO aware of operational issues at the AGL owned Coopers Gap windfarm – there are reports that 51 generators have to be replaced out of a total of 123 generators?</p> <p>4. What quality assurance and oversight controls are applied to the importation of foreign built renewable generators to ensure that energy is reliable and affordable?</p> <p>5. I am aware the Queensland Investment Corporation has invested in the Coopers Gap windfarm. Has the Federal Future fund invested in any renewable energy generation and if so, how much and what is the rate of return on the investment?</p>	16/11/2020 Written
53.	Agencies	McKenzie	Working from home - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. What is the number of public servants working from home for each month from the Department?</p> <p>2. How has the Department measured increased, static or declining productivity and what are the conclusions from that measure?</p> <p>3. What is the number of sick days from the Department with a work-from-home workforce for each month of the lockdown and the corresponding sick days for the corresponding months in 2019?</p>	29/10/2020 Written
54.	Agencies	Kitching	Executive Management - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. The total number of executive management positions</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>c. The change in the number of executive manager positions.</p> <p>d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.</p>	
55.	Agencies	Kitching	Departmental functions - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. List of functions.</p> <p>b. List of all attendees.</p> <p>c. Function venue.</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>).</p> <p>e. Details of any food served.</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</p> <p>g. Any available photographs of the function.</p> <p>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
56.	Agencies	Kitching	Customised and special-order furniture and office supplies - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, can the Department/agency advise the quantum spent on customised and special-ordered furniture and office supplies (excluding items such as ergonomic desks and chairs and items required for work, health and safety purposes). Please provide a full breakdown, descriptions and cost.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
57.	Agencies	Kitching	Facilities upgrades - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>).</p> <p>3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
58.	Agencies	Kitching	Staff travel - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
59.	Agencies	Kitching	Legal costs - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

60.	Agencies	Kitching	Departmental staff allowances - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided. 	13/11/2020 Written
61.	Agencies	Kitching	Market research - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Subject matter Company Costs for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 Contract date period Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred. 	13/11/2020 Written
62.	Agencies	Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When approval was first sought. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided. 	13/11/2020 Written
63.	Agencies	Kitching	Promotional merchandise - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided. 	13/11/2020 Written
64.	Agencies	Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel -	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019- 	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

			energy & climate change agencies	<p>31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020 please be provided including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. Any available photographs documenting the Minister’s travel should also be provided. 	
65.	Agencies	Kitching	Social media influencers - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What was the Department/agency’s total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided. 	13/11/2020 Written
66.	Agencies	Kitching	Commissioned Reports and Reviews - energy & climate change agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date commissioned. Date report handed to Government. Date of public release. Terms of Reference. Committee members and/or Reviewers. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost. The background and credentials of the Review personnel. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review. 	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>	
67.	Agencies	Kitching	Board Appointments - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date.</p> <p>4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
68.	Agencies	Kitching	Media monitoring - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the FY 2020-21.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
69.	Agencies	Kitching	Recruitment - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>	13/11/2020 Written
70.	Agencies	Kitching	Staffing - energy & climate change agencies	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff were engaged at each of 30 June 2019, 30 June 2020 and at 10 November 2020.</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) ongoing and (b) non-ongoing.</p>	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020. How many were:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. voluntary</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020.</p>	
71.	Agencies	Kitching	Fair Work Commission - energy & climate change agencies	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	13/11/2020 Written
72.	Agencies	Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman - energy & climate change agencies	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.	13/11/2020 Written
73.	Agencies	Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner - energy & climate change agencies	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	13/11/2020 Written
74.	Agencies	Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures - energy & climate change agencies	For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020 and 1 July 2020-30 September 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	13/11/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

75.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Waters	Synthetic gas projects	<p>Senator WATERS: I think it's CSIRO, in my home town of Brisbane, that's doing some early work on that. Are you looking into that, and any other vectors, like synthetic gas or liquid fuels, or is that not your purview?</p> <p>Mr Miller: Yes, Senator. In fact, we have a synthetic gas project underway in Wallumbilla, where we're doing direct air capture of CO2 and electrolysis and converting that into renewable methane for injection into the gas network. We're interested in any pathway that allows greater use of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels. That's our objective.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you, on notice, provide me with the dollar figures that are associated with those various projects?</p> <p>Mr Miller: No problem.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 73
76.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Davey	Benefits to communities from large-scale solar projects	<p>Senator DAVEY: You produced a report called 'Insights from the first wave of large-scale solar projects in Australia'. It's on your website. In that report, you note that large-scale solar projects located around New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia have 'created jobs and provided direct and indirect economic benefits to the rural and remote communities in which they operate'. Have you got the data on the extent of the jobs created, plus the direct and indirect benefits, to back up that statement? In my area, I'm particularly interested in a breakdown on the individual projects such as Manildra, Parkes, Dubbo and Griffith, and there are eight projects in Queensland.</p> <p>Mr Miller: I can't give you an answer on that right now but I'm certainly happy to take that on notice and get back to with the information if that suits you.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: That would be fine.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 74
77.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Green	State Based Campaign of Cyber Attacks	<p>1. On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.”</p> <p>He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.”</p> <p>What steps did the Department/Commonwealth Entity take ‘to enhance the resilience of their networks’ after the Prime Minister’s warning?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.”</p> <p>Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p>	28/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>3. Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>4. Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>5. Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>6. Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Department/Commonwealth Entity in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>7. Was advice sought from the Australian Signals Directorate about the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>8. Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>9. Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>10. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Top Four’ mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>11. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Essential Eight’ mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>12. What was the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?</p> <p>13. What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total IT spend?</p> <p>14. What is the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?</p> <p>15. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>16. On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				17. Was any of this funding allocated to the Department/Commonwealth Entity in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?	
78.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Green	DMARC Implementation	<p>1. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?</p> <p>2. Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?</p> <p>3. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>4. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>5. Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?</p> <p>6. The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.”</p> <p>7. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
79.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Green	APS Staff Cyber Security Training	<p>1. Have APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity received cyber security training?</p> <p>2. How many APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity have attended in person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>3. Who administers and conducts this training?</p> <p>4. Does the Department/Commonwealth Entity have a target for the proportion of active users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>5. Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?</p> <p>6. What other forms of cyber security training does the Department/Commonwealth Entity provide?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
80.	Clean Energy	McAllister	Definition of ‘Generation Activity’	Senator McALLISTER: The current definition for 'generation activity' hasn't been changed since the CEFC was established, has it?	20/10/2020 Page 112

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	Finance Corporation			<p>Mr Learmonth: I believe it has. It hasn't in my time. I would refer to one of my colleagues. Simon Every may know the history to that.</p> <p>Mr Every: I can't give you exact dates, but it has definitely been amended over time.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: In what way?</p> <p>Mr Every: I believe that there may have been an amendment to reference the fact that not all generation is connected to the NEM—so there were some changes made to make sure that generation that was not connected to the NEM could be treated fairly and still be invested in—and some other amendments to account for substantial savings of emissions reduction. I would have to take that on notice and get back to you with a definitive answer.</p>	
81.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Waters	Funds reinvested in renewable energy technologies	<p>Senator WATERS: My understanding is that the biggest thing holding back the CEFC making large investments in the grid is that, under your legislation as it currently stands, 50 per cent of the funds have to be reinvested in renewable energy technologies. If I am not mistaken, your submission asked for that to be removed. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: Yes. We made a submission where we supported the removal of the 50 per cent requirement of our portfolio being in renewable energy technology, because it causes us administrative difficulties. Removing the 50 per cent rule will help. It's an administrative burden of about 53 per cent to date. A lot of our renewable energy projects, particularly the project financing component, can be refinanced very quickly upon completion of construction and so on. That could take us under the 50 per cent, and therefore we would be in breach of the act. We would have to start selling down non-renewable energy investments to bring ourselves back into line. That may be unfavourable to the taxpayer. For those sorts of reasons there are administrative difficulties and challenges that come about with that particular provision.</p> <p>That's not of itself related to slowing down or precluding investment in the grid or storage, because in many cases investments in transmission or storage would be considered to be an enabling technology to renewable energy, in fact. So it's not that issue. It's more to do with this very hard rule that 50 per cent of our portfolio must be in renewable energy or we're in breach of the act.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. I have been given the wind-up by the chair, but I'm interested to understand your reasons for proposing removal of that in a little more detail and I'm also interested in whether the government is considering removing that restriction entirely rather than just for the GRF. Could I get an answer on the later from Ms Evans and, Mr Learmonth, would you mind giving me a little more information on notice on that 50 per cent and the changes you're seeking to it?</p> <p>21 Certainly. I'm certainly happy to do that</p>	20/10/2020 Page 115-116
82.	Clean Energy	McMahon	Expanded remit to invest in low-	<p>Senator McMAHON: I was pretty happy to hear recently about the expansion to your remit, specifically enabling the CEFC to invest in other low-emissions technology beyond wind and solar—specifically, carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, soil carbon and green steel. Are you able to outline</p>	20/10/2020 Page 116-117

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

	Finance Corporation		emissions technology	<p>what the federal government announcement means practically for the regions from the CEFC's prospective, in terms of the reliability of energy supply, jobs and affordability of energy?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: There's a lot of in that particular question. I will start by saying that we are still precluded from investing in carbon capture and storage. Some of the things that you mentioned are priority technologies in the technology road map. We are, obviously, focused on as many of those areas that we can invest in. We can't invest in carbon capture and storage because it's precluded under the act. In terms of hydrogen—yes. We've already established, under our investment mandate, a \$300 million Advancing Hydrogen Fund, and we're actively looking at a number of transactions in hydrogen, and many of those are in regional Australia. We are working with industry to see what we can do in the area of green steel and other green building products. We invest right across the countryside and we will continue to do that. With the Grid Reliability Fund, with the assumption that the amendment goes through, that's another billion dollars, with an additional focus on the grids, storage, transmission and so on. Also, that billion dollars will be directed around the country, in most cases, if not all cases, to regional Australia. There are huge possibilities over the coming years with the technology road map and the Grid Reliability Fund to support regional and, potentially, remote parts of Australia. As to exactly how many jobs [inaudible] speculative questions. We're happy to give some thought to that and come back to you on notice. Obviously, we can't be very precise about any of that.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Perhaps I could make one clarification to make sure there's no inconsistency with what I've been saying and how Ian responded to your question. Ian's absolutely right that the current act prohibits carbon capture and storage. The government has said publicly that its intention is to amend the mandate of the CEFC and ARENA in order to sort the low-emissions technology road map, which includes carbon capture and storage. That is one other part of the amendments that are coming and that has been talked about in the public domain.</p>	
83.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Rennick	CEFC commitments	<p>Senator RENNICK: I was wondering if could I get a break-up of the assets that you've lent against—the \$6.3 billion. You can take that on notice, but have you got a break-up of those assets?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: On the \$6 billion of commitments as at 30 June this year, firstly, they aren't all loans. Approximately 80 or 85 per cent of those commitments are debt related transactions. The balance may well be equity. In some cases, they're secured loans, so they do have collateral, be that a renewables project or some real estate. In other cases, they may be corporate finance. We can give you all that information. But, just to be clear, they're the commitments, and, of that, only \$4.5 billion is actually dollars out the door. So there is a certain greater level of legal commitment. But, of that, \$4½ billion has been deployed. So we'll give you the details on it, but it's not all loans.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: That'd be good, thanks—and if you could indicate what was secured and what wasn't secured, I would really appreciate that. That's all.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 119

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

84.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Green	State Based Campaign of Cyber Attacks	<p>1. On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.”</p> <p>He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.”</p> <p>What steps did the Department/Commonwealth Entity take ‘to enhance the resilience of their networks’ after the Prime Minister’s warning?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.”</p> <p>Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>3. Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>4. Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>5. Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>6. Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Department/Commonwealth Entity in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>7. Was advice sought from the Australian Signals Directorate about the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>8. Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>9. Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
-----	---	--------------	--	--	-------------------------------

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>10. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Top Four’ mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>11. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Essential Eight’ mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>12. What was the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?</p> <p>13. What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total IT spend?</p> <p>14. What is the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?</p> <p>15. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>16. On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security.</p> <p>17. Was any of this funding allocated to the Department/Commonwealth Entity in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?</p>	
85.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Green	DMARC Implementation	<p>1. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?</p> <p>2. Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?</p> <p>3. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>4. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>5. Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?</p> <p>6. The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.”</p> <p>7. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?</p>	28/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

86.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Green	APS Staff Cyber Security Training	<p>1. Have APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity received cyber security training?</p> <p>2. How many APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity have attended in person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>3. Who administers and conducts this training?</p> <p>4. Does the Department/Commonwealth Entity have a target for the proportion of active users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>5. Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?</p> <p>6. What other forms of cyber security training does the Department/Commonwealth Entity provide?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
87.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Rennick	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	<p>1. Could a breakup of projects that the CEFC has lent to or given grants to please be provided? If the loan is secured against an asset could the loans be split be secured and non-secured?</p> <p>2. On what line item of the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income is interest expense contained in?</p> <p>3. How does the CEFC raise its funds - how much is equity and how much is debt? What is the cost of the debt?</p>	30/10/2020 Written
88.	Clean Energy Regulator	Green	State Based Campaign of Cyber Attacks	<p>1. On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.”</p> <p>He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.”</p> <p>What steps did the Department/Commonwealth Entity take ‘to enhance the resilience of their networks’ after the Prime Minister’s warning?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.”</p> <p>Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>3. Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p>	28/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>4. Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign? a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>5. Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks? a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>6. Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Department/Commonwealth Entity in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>7. Was advice sought from the Australian Signals Directorate about the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>8. Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>9. Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>10. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Top Four’ mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>11. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Essential Eight’ mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>12. What was the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?</p> <p>13. What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total IT spend?</p> <p>14. What is the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?</p> <p>15. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>16. On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security.</p> <p>17. Was any of this funding allocated to the Department/Commonwealth Entity in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

89.	Clean Energy Regulator	Green	DMARC Implementation	<p>1. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?</p> <p>2. Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?</p> <p>3. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>4. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>5. Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?</p> <p>6. The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.”</p> <p>7. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
90.	Clean Energy Regulator	Green	APS Staff Cyber Security Training	<p>1. Have APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity received cyber security training?</p> <p>2. How many APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity have attended in person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>3. Who administers and conducts this training?</p> <p>4. Does the Department/Commonwealth Entity have a target for the proportion of active users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>5. Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network?</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?</p> <p>6. What other forms of cyber security training does the Department/Commonwealth Entity provide?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
91.	Clean Energy Regulator	Waters	Facilities emitting above 25 thousand tonnes of CO2 equivalent per annum	<p>1. Does the Clean Energy Regulator keep a record of all facilities that are responsible for emitting above 25 thousand tonnes of CO2 equivalent per annum even though you publically report only those over 100 thousand tonnes per annum?</p> <p>2. What is the total amount of CO2e that facilities between 25,000 and 100,000 tonnes were responsible for emitting in both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 years?</p> <p>3. Can you please provide a list of all those facilities between 25 and 100 thousand tonnes for the 2017-18 or 2018-19 financial year, including their annual CO2e emissions?</p>	30/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>4. For all facilities that were responsible for emitting 25,000 tonnes or more of CO2 for both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years, are you able to allocate their aggregated emissions to the major siloes in our national greenhouse gas accounts (ie. Electricity, stationary energy, transport, fugitives, industrial processes, waste)?</p> <p>5. If the answer to Q4 is yes, could you please provide how many tonnes of CO2 equivalent were emitted by facilities that were responsible for 25,000 tonnes or more of CO2 for both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years?</p>	
92.	Clean Energy Regulator	Gallagher	Contractor expenditure	<p>1. Please provide the following figures:</p> <p>a. Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20</p> <p>b. Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20</p> <p>c. Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020</p> <p>i. In total</p> <p>ii. As a percentage of total staff headcount</p> <p>d. As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2019-20</p> <p>2. Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.</p> <p>3. In relation to contracts for market research:</p> <p>a. How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020?</p> <p>b. How much has been spent since 24 August 2018?</p> <p>c. Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information:</p> <p>i. Total contract value</p> <p>ii. Supplier</p> <p>iii. If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee</p>	30/10/2020 Written
93.	Climate Change Authority	Urquhart	Follow-up media on Economic Recovery Report	<p>Senator URQUHART: What engagement have you had with the minister or his office and any other relevant minister on its report since its release?</p> <p>Dr Craik: The minister's office was briefed on the report.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you did that briefing?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes, that's right.</p> <p>Dr Craik: We also briefed on the subsequent report, the review of the Emissions Reduction Fund, which we put out a couple of weeks ago. There were probably other conversations along the way.</p> <p>Mr Archer: Certainly we had conversations with the Department of the Treasury about the existence of the report and brought that to their attention. We had spoken with them during the process of preparing the report. Similarly with the department of industry as well.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 106-107

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Senator URQUHART: Was there any follow-up media on the report?</p> <p>Dr Craik: I don't think so. There might have been one thing.</p> <p>Mr Archer: We might have to take that one on notice. There might have been some coverage in some very specific climate change related news services. I'd need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So very little, if any.</p> <p>Dr Craik: It wasn't much, if there was anything. There might have been something in RenewEconomy or something like that.</p>	
94.	Climate Change Authority	McMahon	Response from farmer groups to recommendation	<p>Senator McMAHON: In your report <i>Economic recovery, resilience and prosperity after the coronavirus</i> you acknowledge that agriculture, forestry and the fishing sector provides jobs for more than 325,000 people, with the vast majority being in regional Australia and that Australian farmers and land managers manage around 378 million hectares, nearly 50 per cent, of the Australian land mass. The report states: There is growing recognition of the desirability of pursuing integrated actions on the land that together address productivity, account for climate change mitigation and adaptation and conserve the natural environment. The report also states you've: ... recommended the establishment of a Land and Environment Investment Fund (similar to the CEFC) to facilitate greater investment in projects that reduce emissions and have other public benefits in the agriculture and land sector. Could you take me through that recommendation, specifically, including what engagement you've had in relation to that announcement?</p> <p>Dr Craik: We first recommended that way back in 2018, I think it was, in our report called <i>Reaping rewards on the land</i> and we've repeated it a number of times since. I recall we had some engagement with the CEFC, when we first wrote that report, to ask whether they thought that was a sensible way to go. My recollection is that they said, at the time, it was a sensible approach, organisationally. Since then—I'll probably ask Brad to talk on it—I think there's been discussion with the Clean Energy Regulator, potentially, about that. There's certainly been discussion about stacking—different things, like carbon farming, like biodiversity—methods into single projects and how that's done. I can't recall a lot of other consultation on it, but we have repeated the recommendation a number of times. Brad, do you want to add anything?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes, that's right. Amongst one or two of the farmer groups there was a positive reception to the recommendation. I think it might have been Farmers for Climate Action, but I'd need to check.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 111
95.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Waters	Transmission line EIS	<p>Senator WATERS: Mr Broad, I didn't hear all of your words before. Did you say that the transmission line EIS has now been submitted, or were you talking about the main works EIS?</p>	20/10/2020 Page 121

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Mr Broad: Those are two separate issues. The main works EIS is about 2.0. Transmission is about interconnectability between the states and between those areas that are delivering up renewables and those areas that are going to firm it, like us.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but when will that EIS be submitted for the transmission line?</p> <p>Mr Broad: You'd have to ask the transmission companies on that. You'd have to ask TransGrid and those involved on that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: You're not doing that EIS; they are?</p> <p>Mr Broad: No.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. And you're not sure when they'll put that EIS in?</p> <p>Mr Broad: No.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay, well that answers my question—</p> <p>Mr Broad: If you like, I could find the information out for you and send it to you; that's not a problem.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: On notice? That would be great.</p>	
96.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Waters	Amount of native forest destroyed	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes, okay. So how much native forest will be destroyed in the Kosciuszko National Park?</p> <p>Mr Broad: Very little. Extremely little. As I said—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you be more specific?</p> <p>Mr Broad: As I said before, the major impact is down in Lobs Hole. There's no native forest—it's very disturbed areas.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but how many hectares of native forest?</p> <p>Mr Broad: We impact, in operations, 0.01 per cent of the park.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but how many hectares is that?</p> <p>Mr Broad: I can give you the hectares on notice.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 121
97.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Waters	2020 Integrated system plan	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. That would be great. AEMO recently completed their NEM-wide <i>2020 Integrated system plan</i> and found Snowy 2.0 would produce much less energy than Snowy is claiming and that the project is not needed until 2033. Have those forecasts by our energy management experts changed any of your assumptions in the business case?</p> <p>Mr Broad: I'll let Roger respond to that, if I could.</p> <p>Mr Whitby: I understand that's being reported in the press, but we do not believe that's factual. It's not actually what AEMO said.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: You don't think that's what they found in their ISP?</p> <p>Mr Whitby: Correct.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What do you think they said?</p> <p>Mr Whitby: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Oh, okay.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 121-122

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Mr Broad: But, just so we're clear, AEMO has also said you're going to need eight times Snowy 2.0 to deliver up any form of renewables—eight times.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Sorry, I can't always understand what you're saying. Could you say that again?</p> <p>Mr Broad: AEMO has also said that you're going to need eight—eight!—Snowy 2.0s or equivalents to deliver up against the renewable penetration to occur over the next 30 years.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, we need lots of renewable energy. I hope no-one disagrees with that. Thank you for taking on notice what your point of disagreement is with what I thought AEMO said. Does that mean it hasn't changed your assessment?</p> <p>Mr Whitby: Sorry, it's not what AEMO said; it's what was reported in the press about what AEMO said—two different issues.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. Well, I think the people who wrote this read the source document, not the media reports, but we'll find out once we see your response. Thank you.</p>	
98.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Patrick	Advice to Prime Minister on Kurri Kurri proposal	<p>Senator PATRICK: Can you, perhaps, take on notice, Minister, when the Prime Minister received enough information to be confident to make that public announcement? There are things that companies talk about, but they get to a certain point of maturity when you decide that this is more than just a thought bubble. I'm just interested in the process where we went from the discussions of the board of Snowy Hydro to where the Prime Minister might have been informed.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: So not the element of the announcements around overall energy settings and not the element in terms of the 1,000 megawatt target—purely the element, in terms of advice, around the potential for Snowy to play a role, and it's specifically the Kurri Kurri proposal?</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Yes, please. You'll take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Yes.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 126
99.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Patrick	Project milestones schedule	<p>Senator PATRICK: I don't care what anyone thinks about the future delivery, I care about milestones that have been met. From the baseline contract, what was the last milestone that was achieved by the project?</p> <p>Mr Broad: Notice to proceed.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Did that occur on the date of the baseline contract?</p> <p>Mr Broad: With COVID and other matters it was about two months late.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: This is what I find, Mr Broad, when I talk to any project. They all say, 'It's going to land on time. I can take you through the history of the icebreaker, where people assured me it was going to come left and it would hit the mark. That's why I'm more interested in project milestones that have been achieved. What is the next milestone?</p> <p>Mr Broad: Sure. The next milestone is the tunnel-boring machine's first operations, which is the end of December. That tunnel-boring machine is onsite and being constructed now.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Has that moved from the baseline contract?</p>	20/10/2020 Page 127

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Mr Broad: Where it sits on the critical path is the construction of the cabin, access into the cabin. I'll double-check the date but they're going to start that, I think, by April or May next year. That's a crucial date in the key milestones. It's getting access to begin the work on the cabin. So when I'm back here again that's a question to chase me on: 'Has that cabin started?' I'll take on notice the exact date, but it's scheduled for early to mid-next year.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I did ask for the master schedule and it wasn't provided to me, so I'm grateful that you're offering it to me. There are a number of schedules that are provided to committees, and they're very important for being able to conduct oversight—</p> <p>Mr Broad: I'll pick the key milestones, and I'm very happy to be held accountable for them.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much. I'd be most grateful for that.</p>	
100.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Patrick	Australian industry content	<p>Senator PATRICK: I'm comparing this to, say, Snowy 1.0, and I go back to the evidence you provided Senator Carr just after the project commenced. You said you were very keen to make sure there was maximum Australian content, and that's where I wanted to go with this discussion. Even though some of these companies operate here, the modus operandi of some of these tier-one construction companies is to squeeze the supply chain here in Australia, and they have, as you would understand, corporate motive to take profit back to wherever the multinational is domiciled. So I have a concern: you've got three major companies involved with this particular project that are domiciled overseas. The other problem that comes with companies that are domiciled and work overseas is that they tend to work with whom they are familiar with. I'm concerned about the Australian industry content. Do you keep a track of how much is being spent on the Australian industry?</p> <p>Mr Broad: Yes. I can give you that in detail. We do keep a track of that. For example, there are 100 local contractors down there working on site now. At Polo Flat, where the segment factory is being built, all that civil work is being done by local contractors. The segments are massive. All of the tunnels are going to be segment lined. The sand and the gravel will all come from local pits. The original plan from the contractor was to build those in Malaysia and import them. We insisted on having them built here.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: In terms of the way in which you might describe it—and I'm grateful that you might return with an answer—I'm not so much interested in if a company has an ABN, because I can be an importer-exporter and that doesn't necessarily mean very much. So the contracts to the large international corporations you have don't necessarily reflect Australian content. I'm wondering, when you go away and look at how you might report back, what—</p> <p>Mr Broad: The Australian content is?</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: the Australian content is. If you could provide some metrics that explain—</p> <p>Mr Broad: Yes, we will provide metrics.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I'm very interested in, as I said, not in an ABN but capability being exercised here. The other aspect I'm interested in is—and this is not disrespectful to some of these contractors that</p>	20/10/2020 Page 127-128

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>do a great job—technology transfer. In terms of technology transfer, some of that very manual and heavy construction work doesn't necessarily involve the sort of work that might be involved in turbines and other such things that you might have in your project. Is it possible for you to provide a description to the committee of the benefits that we're receiving from a technology transfer prospective whereby either the task comes to Australia to be carried out by an Australian entity and/or, if intellectual property is transferred to Australia, there's a local benefit?</p> <p>Mr Broad: I think that's a much harder one to deal with. The turbines are being built and manufactured primarily in Germany, but some parts will come out of China. Unfortunately, the global markets are such that the global supply chain means that they get dominated by the bigger players, wherever they are in the world, but we are endeavouring to place our young engineers over there in Europe alongside the voice people to learn and develop skills. That's certainly the case. On the design side, where the real smarts go in, we have shadowed the contractors to the point where we're as equal as them on every part of the design on all the key parts of this. So the skill base of those young engineers that are working with us—young tradespeople et cetera—is such that we'll be significantly enhanced. I'll have to have a good think about how we represent that to you.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: If you wouldn't mind, I'd love to see a description of how you've done that.</p>	
101.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Patrick	Australian steel used in project	<p>Senator PATRICK: Sure. How much Australian steel are you using in the project? For example, I understand there are steel elements in the pipes.</p> <p>Mr Broad: No pipes in that sense because they're concrete lined. The steel in the turbines would all come internationally. I'm not sure off the top of my head. There would be a lot, but, again, I'll back to you with some details on that.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I've spoken to people like the Steel Institute, who have an interest in this particular project. If you could take on notice whether or not the standards that you impose through the contract in relation to steel are Australian standards or some international standard, I would be most grateful.</p> <p>Mr Broad: The contract is issued, but we'll come back to you. We'll extract from them what it is and tell you.</p>	20/10/2020 Page 128
102.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Gallagher	Contractor expenditure	<p>1. Please provide the following figures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expenditure on all contractors for 2019-20 b. Expenditure on all contracts with labour hire firms for 2019-20 c. Headcount of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as at 30 June 2020 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In total ii. As a percentage of total staff headcount d. As a percentage mark-up on the cost of the contractor, the maximum and minimum fees paid to labour hire firms in 2019-20 	30/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>2. Has the agency performed any analysis on whether it costs more to engage staff as contractors compared with hiring staff as employees? If yes, please provide this analysis.</p> <p>3. In relation to contracts for market research:</p> <p>a. How much has been spent to date since 1 January 2020?</p> <p>b. How much has been spent since 24 August 2018?</p> <p>c. Please provide a table with all contracts entered into since 1 January 2020 along with the following information:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Total contract value</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Supplier</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii. If it was approved by the Service Delivery and Coordination Committee</p>	
103.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Carr	Water quality	<p>In 1993 The Snowy Mountains Scheme issued a paper entitled The Environment: a Position Statement. In that document it states:</p> <p>“The advent of the Snowy Scheme changed all this. The quality of water was paramount for this to occur the catchment had to be pristine and sedimentation reduced. Progressively the summer grazing leases were withdrawn by the State of NSW. The Authority, together with Soil Conservation Service of NSW and the CSIRO, set about the task of returning the high country to something approaching its former condition. The Authority pioneered many re-growth and restoration techniques during the construction of the scheme.”</p> <p>1. How important is the quality of water in the catchment for Snowy Hydro?</p> <p>2. What is Snowy Hydro doing to reduce sedimentation in the catchment?</p> <p>3. What impact does sedimentation have on Snowy Hydro’s infrastructure?</p> <p>4. What are the main causes of sedimentation in the catchment?</p> <p>5. What programs has Snowy Hydro been part of in recent years to return the high country to its former condition and improve water quality?</p> <p>6. What contemporary re-growth and restoration techniques will Snowy Hydro be using in the construction of Snowy 2.0?</p>	10/11/2020 Written
104.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Green	State Based Campaign of Cyber Attacks	<p>1. On Friday 19th June 2020 the Prime Minister held a press conference to tell the nation that a “sophisticated state-based cyber actor” was “targeting Australian organisations across a range of sectors including all levels of government, industry, political organisations, education, health, essential service providers and operators of other critical infrastructure.”</p> <p>He further indicated that the purpose of this press conference was to “raise awareness of these specific risks and targeted activities and tell you how you can take action to protect yourself... It is vital that</p>	28/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>Australian organisations are alert to this threat and take steps to enhance the resilience of their networks.”</p> <p>What steps did the Department/Commonwealth Entity take ‘to enhance the resilience of their networks’ after the Prime Minister’s warning?</p> <p>2. The Prime Minister’s media release about this state sponsored campaign encouraged organisations to “take expert advice, and implement technical defences to thwart this malicious cyber activity.”</p> <p>Were any additional technical defences implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>3. Were any additional controls or mitigations implemented within the Department/Commonwealth Entity to enhance the resilience of its networks in the face of the specific threat identified by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>4. Was any new staff training initiated to enhance resilience against any phishing attacks targeting staff that may accompany this state sponsored campaign?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>5. Were any internal communications prepared for staff about the threat of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference and what staff could do to maximise the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide them to the committee.</p> <p>6. Was any additional funding allocated to support additional technical defences, controls, mitigations or training within the Department/Commonwealth Entity in response to the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>7. Was advice sought from the Australian Signals Directorate about the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>8. Was the Minister briefed on the cyber resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>9. Was the Minister briefed on any additional steps to enhance the resilience of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s networks needed in the face of the state sponsored campaign identified by the Prime Minister in his June 19th 2020 press conference?</p> <p>10. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Top Four’ mitigations as mandated under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>11. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity compliant with the Australian Signals Directorate’s ‘Essential Eight’ mitigations as recommended under the Protective Security Policy Framework?</p> <p>12. What was the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2019-2020 financial year?</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>13. What is the cyber security spend as a proportion of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total IT spend?</p> <p>14. What is the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s forecast total spend on the cyber security of its networks during the 2020-2021 financial year?</p> <p>15. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s total spend on cyber security increased proportionately to the increased threat identified in the Prime Minister’s press conference?</p> <p>16. On Tuesday 30th June 2020, the Government announced a \$1.35 billion 10-year investment in cyber security.</p> <p>17. Was any of this funding allocated to the Department/Commonwealth Entity in order to take steps to enhance the cyber resilience of its own networks in the face of the specific threats identified by the Prime Minister in his press conference on 19 June 2020?</p>	
105.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Green	DMARC Implementation	<p>1. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity fully implemented Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) on its email domains?</p> <p>2. Does the full implementation of Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) provide the most effective email domain mitigation against the threat of phishing emails?</p> <p>3. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity worked with the Australian Cyber Security Centre to progress its implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>4. Has the Department/Commonwealth Entity received an appropriation for the implementation of DMARC?</p> <p>5. Does the Information Security Manual guidance for email gateways and servers recommend “DMARC records are configured for all domains such that emails are rejected if they fail SPF or DKIM checks”?</p> <p>6. The ACSC’s “Malicious Email Mitigation Strategies” provides that “Socially engineered emails containing malicious attachments and embedded links are routinely used in targeted cyber intrusions against organisations.”</p> <p>7. Is the Department/Commonwealth Entity concerned that the low levels of DMARC implementation within Commonwealth government departments revealed by Proofpoint leaves Australians unnecessarily vulnerable to phishing campaigns spoofing Commonwealth government agency domains?</p>	28/10/2020 Written
106.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Green	APS Staff Cyber Security Training	<p>1. Have APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity received cyber security training?</p> <p>2. How many APS staff in the Department/Commonwealth Entity have attended in person cyber security training sessions?</p> <p>3. Who administers and conducts this training?</p> <p>4. Does the Department/Commonwealth Entity have a target for the proportion of active users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network that have completed in-person cyber security training sessions?</p>	28/10/2020 Written

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 19-22 OCTOBER 2020

				<p>5. Has consideration been given to making cyber security training mandatory for users of the Department/Commonwealth Entity’s Network?</p> <p>a. If so, what was the outcome of those considerations?</p> <p>6. What other forms of cyber security training does the Department/Commonwealth Entity provide?</p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--