

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020
13 October 2020

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Dates relevant to Bill

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 October 2020, Page 38)

QUESTION No.: 1

Senator PATRICK: You might take this on notice. Could you provide the dates on which any correspondence that went to the minister that proposed a bill as a solution to the problems that you've just talked about, and also the date on which—I presume this either went to cabinet or to the Prime Minister—the approvals were given to draft legislation.

Ms Evans: Yes, we can take that on notice, I don't have that with me.

ANSWER

The Department first raised the option of establishing a dedicated fund for CEFC to support grid reliability outcomes in September 2018. Prior to this, CEFC and the Department had regularly discussed matters related to grid reliability and the integration of renewable generation, including in relation to the 2017 Independent review into the future security of the National Electricity Market.

CEFC advised the Department that the requirement for CEFC to maintain half of its investments in renewables represented an operational challenge in the months before the obligation commenced in July 2018. The 2018 Deloitte Statutory Review of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation subsequently highlighted the challenge associated with managing a diverse and dynamic portfolio against a static target for renewable investment.

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TOPIC: Registration of Interest Process

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 October 2020, Page 41)

QUESTION No.: 2

Mr Blowers: To clarify: there were 66 submissions in that ROI process, and the content of those submissions and the names of those submissions have not been announced publicly. As my colleague said, the projects that were involved were across a range of technologies and in different stages of development. But, as I said, the specifics of those individual companies are not publicly available at the moment.

Senator GREEN: That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking: what information did those 66 projects have to give you? Was it a proforma that was one page long? Was it a detailed business case that was required? What information was available to be able to assess these projects?

Mr Blowers: The registration-of-interest process was a way of sounding out the market to enable the government to develop an understanding of the range of projects that were available, to help inform the final design of the program and to develop that initial pipeline of projects. So the applications provided information to the department around that range of issues.

Ms Parry: Senator, we can take on notice the specific information. It was publicly available on the website, so we can take on notice the specifics of what was publicly available, noting that each submission

Senator GREEN: That would be appreciated, because [inaudible] I'm going to get an answer. Now that those projects have been selected, you said that they have to stack up—

ANSWER

UNGI Registration of Interest (ROI) information is publically available on the energy.gov.au website: <https://www.energy.gov.au/publications/underwriting-new-generation-investment-program-registrations-interest-guidance-document>.

Projects putting forward a ROI were also requested to fill in a Cover Sheet. Information requested in the Coversheet included:

- Contact details
- Organisation
 - Title and Name
 - Position within organisation
 - Postal address
 - Email address

- Phone number
- Project details, including specifying whether the information was confidential
 - Lead Project proponent
 - Other project partners
 - Project location
 - Project capacity (MW)
 - Generation technology
 - How the generation will be firm or firmed
 - Mechanism of support