

Economics Legislation
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Inquiry into Future Made in Australia Bill 2024 [Provisions] and the Future Made in Australia (Omnibus Amendments No.1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

Question No: IQ24-000151

Hearing Date: 29 August 2024

Division/Agency: Net Zero Industries Division

Topic: ARENA staffing budget

Question Date: 29 August 2024

Question Type: Written

Senator McKim asked:

1. Arena can currently only engage staff that are employed by the Department and made available to them by the Secretary. Is additional money being transferred from the Department's budget to Arena to cover staff costs?
2. What is the total amount that will be spent out of Arena's budget rather than via the Department on staff?

Answer:

1. ARENA's current workforce is made up of two employees (the CEO and CFO), 38 staff seconded from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under section 62, and labour hire and fixed term contractors.

Under the proposed changes to the ARENA Act, ARENA would be granted the general right to employ. This change will ensure that ARENA can offer secure, direct employment to their workforce.

The department allocates funding to ARENA to cover staffing costs; this allocation is separate to ARENA's statutory funding to be provided in the Bill.

2. ARENA has not finalised the details of its future engagement model, including the ongoing transfer of departmental staff and associated costs.