

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 100
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)
Topic: Native forest biomass
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Has the Government assessed the prospective regional health impacts and medical costs of burning native forest biomass for energy production, at various scales including co-generation with coal?

Answer:

Burning of native forest biomass for energy production can only occur in limited circumstances. The safeguards put in place provide strong assurance that the eligible native forest wood waste will be harvested and used in a sustainable way. While the eligibility requirements do not include criteria related to health impacts the State planning authorities, responsible for assessing and approving new developments, consider whether a biomass generation installation exposes the community to unacceptable air quality.