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

Question No:	217
Hearing:	Budget Estimates
Outcome:	Agency
Program:	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)
Topic:	GreenSync
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Question Date:	23 May 2017
Question Type:	Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Let us move on to GreenSync. Grid reform is obviously a huge area, and I note ARENA has done some really fascinating work there as well. Are you able to tell me a little bit more about the focus of GreenSync and what precisely they are looking at in grid reform?
Ms Broadbent: Who can do that?
Mr Powell: I will partially answer the question as best I can. This is a software company. They are using smart software to optimise the use of energy resources in the electricity grid.
Senator WATERS: Can you tell me a bit more? Those are just buzz words.
Mr Powell: It is based on smart controls. As a finance guy, it is beyond me to explain any better, so we might take that on notice.

Answer:

Greensync is a technology company that uses software to maximise the benefits of renewable energy resources in electricity grids.

The company uses smart control software and coordination to help:

- Network companies to manage their network constraints

- Commercial and industrial users to manage their distributed energy resources, including local PV generation, batteries and backup generators, for example by creating a behind the meter "microgrid"

- Households to pool their distributed energy resources into a "virtual power plant" capable of despatching megawatt-level power supplies back to the grid in peak events.

Taken together these applications can reduce total capital requirements of the grid, reducing consumers prices, increasing energy security and managing the connection of more intermittent generation sources into the grid.

An example of this was the use of Greensync's technology behind a project to manage 13MW of demand in the lower Mornington Peninsula, thus averting the need for an expensive network upgrade to the feeder line in that region.