

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 31
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Policy Analysis and Implementation (PAAI)
Topic: Commonwealth responsibility for SDG implementation
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 07 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Can the Department advise on which Commonwealth Department has overarching responsibility for SDG implementation?; what is the policy framework within the Commonwealth and with the States for implanting the SDGs?; what are the priority SDGs for the Department and the whole of the Government?; and, what is the reporting framework and process for SDG implementation both to the Australian community and Parliament and to the relevant international forums?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet are leading a coordinated, whole-of-government approach on how we best give effect to the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), domestically and internationally.
2. Work is underway across government on a forward program which involves mapping existing government initiatives that align with the 2030 Agenda; strengthening government communications on the work we are doing; and identifying new opportunities to give effect to the 2030 Agenda.
3. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs align with Australia's national interests and domestic, foreign and trade policy priorities. The Department of the Environment and Energy is looking at ways to give effect to SDG 7 on Clean Energy; SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 on Climate Action; SDG 14 on Life below Water; SDG 15 on Life on Land and support for SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation.
4. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are to be delivered by countries twice over the life of the 2030 Agenda (presented in July each year at the High Level Political Forum).