

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

**Question No:** 1

**Hearing:** Budget Estimates 2017

**Outcome:** N/A

**Program:** Snowy Hydro Ltd

**Topic:** Timeline of decision to announce 2.0

**Hansard Page:** 40

**Question Date:** 23 May 2017

**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

Can you take me through a timeline of the decision to announce 2.0 please? When was it first discussed with ARENA, when was it first discussed with the PM's Office, and what are the timeframes on those discussions?

**Answer:**

- SHL has been considering pumped hydro expansion since the 1960s. In recent years, Snowy Hydro has engaged with stakeholders and government agencies on a range of potential renewable energy developments including mostly recently with ARENA on pumped hydro.
- SHL had observed the Federal Government's increased interest in pumped hydro expansion, particularly when the Prime Minister put this matter on the public agenda in his address to the National Press Club in February 2017; and the corresponding joint focus by the Government agencies CEFC and ARENA on accelerating the development of large-scale storage projects including pumped hydro.
- The Prime Minister's Office contacted SHL in February 2017 for a general discussion on pumped hydro expansion capability across the industry.
- SHL met with ARENA in February 2017 to discuss a range of matters including the feasibility study on Snowy 2.0. SHL subsequently approached the Office of the Prime Minister with a proposal for the feasibility study on Snowy 2.0.
- A formal announcement was made in March 2017.