

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

Question No: 5

Hearing: Budget Estimates 2017

Outcome: N/A

Program: Snowy Hydro Ltd

Topic: Prime Minister's office

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Question Date: 23 May 2017

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Carr asked:

Did you approach the Prime Minister's office, or did they approach you? Who initiated that arrangement?

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.