

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

Question No: 110
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: ARENA
Topic: Limiting Fugitive Emissions
Hansard Page: 110
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Okay. The great bulk of forecast growth in emissions is from the LNG sector in Queensland, both from the primary energy used for extraction as well as for fugitive emissions. Is there anything that ARENA is looking at in the field of limiting fugitive emissions **caused by mining for gas or for coal?**

Mr Frischknecht: No. We are not focused on that at the moment. In fact, it is outside our mandate.

Senator WATERS: Okay, so you cannot do that even if you wanted to. Right.

Mr Frischknecht: Unless—

Dr de Brouwer: The ERF is focused on that, Senator.

Senator WATERS: On fugitives?

Dr de Brouwer: Yes. On methods for extracting methane from coal seams, for example.

Senator WATERS: Given the time, could you take on notice to ask the relevant folk to get me some more details on those projects?

Dr de Brouwer: Yes.

Answer:

The Emissions Reduction Fund currently provides two methodologies for businesses to reduce fugitive emissions caused by mining; the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Coal Mine Waste Gas) Methodology Determination 2015* and the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Oil and Gas Fugitives) Methodology Determination 2015*.

- The Coal Mine Waste Gas methodology covers projects that do one or both of the following:
 - reduce fugitive emissions by combusting methane present in coal mine waste gas using methane combustion devices such as flares or combustion engines which are used to produce electricity;
 - reduce emissions by producing electricity from coal mine waste gas and displacing higher emissions-intensive electricity such as that otherwise supplied by the grid.
- The Oil and Gas Fugitives methodology covers projects that reduce fugitive emissions from venting at oil and natural gas extraction, production, transport and processing facilities.

Additional details on projects that have registered or contracted to deliver abatement under these methodologies can be found on the Clean Energy Regulator's webpage:

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/project-and-contracts-registers>