

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

Question No: 192
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)
Topic: CEFC Mandate
Hansard Page: 32-33
Question Date: 13 November 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Great. Let's hope that they take your advice on board. I think the draft criteria have been released recently. You talked earlier about the investment mandate. You said that the March 2015 one is still on foot. When will the revised mandate be issued?

Ms Broadbent: That is in the hands of the government.

Senator WATERS: Does the cabinet secretary have anything to add on that?

Senator Sinodinos: No, I do not.

Senator WATERS: Has there been progress made in the negotiations?

Ms Broadbent: The process is always that we receive a draft investment mandate, we respond, it comes back and it goes fourth. We have not started that process. We have not received a draft investment mandate since we had the formal investment mandate—

Senator WATERS: In March?

Ms Broadbent: We had a draft under the previous responsible minister.

Senator WATERS: Indeed. I read it with horror.

Ms Broadbent: That did not progress because of the interchange about the workability of it.

Senator WATERS: If you could provide on notice any information that you have in relation to the workability which, as you say, was lacking in that draft, I would be very interested. Thank you.

Answer:

In accordance with section 66 of the *Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012*, the CEFC was issued with a new consultation draft Investment Mandate on 24 June 2015, by the-then responsible Ministers the Hon Joe Hockey MP (Treasurer) and Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann (Minister for Finance).

The CEFC has treated the consultation process on an in-confidence basis. On 13 July 2015, due to speculation from several media outlets, the CEFC released a brief statement on receipt of the consultation draft Investment Mandate (attached). The CEFC has not provided further public detail or commentary apart from the statement.

The period allotted for consultation was extended at the CEFC's request several times by the-then Ministers, and the Ministers made themselves and their staff available for consultation.

At the time of the swearing in of the Turnbull Ministry, and accompanying change in administrative arrangements, this draft of the Mandate had not been finalised and has been treated as superseded by events.