

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Question: BET 2129-2137

Topic: Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

Reference: Written 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

Since 7 September 2013:

2129. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contact. When was it formed or created?
2130. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
2131. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
2132. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
2133. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reasons, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
2134. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change?
2135. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website?
2136. If no consultation has occurred, why not?
2137. Did the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary meet with any stakeholders about changes to advocacy in their contracts and/or agreements? If so, when? Who did he/she meet with?

Answer:

2129. There have been no changes either under:
- the Rudd Ministry which was in office prior to 18 September 2013; or
 - the Abbott Ministry which was in office from 18 September 2013.

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2130. N/A.

2131. No.

2132-2133. N/A.

2134-2136. While the CEFC provides finance to a range of organisations for projects which use renewable energy, energy efficiency or low emissions technologies, the CEFC does not collect information on the basis of “changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made.” This information is of no utility to the CEFC, and attempting to collect this information would present an unnecessary diversion of public resources that would not meet the requirements of efficient, effective, economical and ethical usage per the *Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is therefore also not possible to answer questions 7. and 8.

2137. The CEFC is neither a Minister nor a Parliamentary Secretary, and the CEFC cannot answer for Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. This question should be directed to the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary from whom the Senator seeks the information concerned.