

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3-4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: AER

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Conroy

QUESTION No.: BI-67

It is understood that the AER has made final determinations which will see lower electricity bills for consumers in NSW and the ACT. What role does the Department and the Minister have regarding these determinations?

Will the Department be involved or will the Government have a position on the NSW Government's challenge to these determinations?

ANSWER

The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) is an independent body and makes determinations in accordance with requirements set out in the National Electricity Law and National Electricity Rules: there is no role for the Department or the Minister in making the determinations.

Regulated network businesses are able to seek limited merits review of the AER's determination by the Australian Competition Tribunal under the National Electricity Law. All energy ministers have the right to intervene in the review process and the Commonwealth is currently considering its position.