

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Additional Estimates, 11 February 2013

Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	90
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Jobs and Competitiveness Program		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 45		

Senator McKENZIE: How many are located in regional Australia, and how many actually deal with rural industries of agriculture and forestry?

Ms Munro: Firstly, in terms of the location, I do not think that we would be able to provide you that information today.

Senator McKENZIE: That is okay.

Ms Munro: We have very specifically published on our website the entities which have received those free units under the scheme and so we would be able to take that on notice and give an indication of that, noting that these are large manufacturing and large industrial facilities; although many of them would certainly be in regional Australia. In terms of the sectors—and there is a sectoral analysis which is on our website, but in the interest of time I probably cannot call it up on my iPad quickly enough—

Answer:

The Jobs and Competitiveness Program (JCP) provides assistance to entities carrying on an eligible emissions-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) activity. As at 25 March 2013, the Clean Energy Regulator has approved 116 applications under the JCP. Approximately two-thirds of the facilities included in the applications are facilities operating in regional Australia.

There are no legislated EITE activities which are classified as agriculture or forestry industries. The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 was used as reference for the definition of agriculture and forestry industries.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	91
Program:	1.4		
Division:	CPMD		
Topic:	Jobs and Competitiveness Program		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator McKenzie asked:

1. What is the industry breakdown for the applicants to the Jobs and Competitiveness Program? This question follows up on (Supplementary Budget Estimates) QON #102.
2. How does the department define regional? This question follows up on (Supplementary Budget Estimates) QON #102.

Answer:

1. As at 25 March 2013 a total of 119 applications have been lodged under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program for the 2012-13 financial year. The applications relate to 45 out of the 47 EITE activities which were eligible as at 25 March 2013. The breakdown of these EITE activities is set out in Attachment A.
2. The postcode ranges set out in the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Remoteness Structure were used to define regional Australia for the purpose of the Department's response to Question on Notice No. 102.

EITE activity	Number of applications
Alumina refining	5
Aluminium smelting	6
Cartonboard manufacturing	1
Dry pulp manufacturing	0
Integrated iron and steel manufacturing	2
Integrated production of lead and zinc	1
Manufacture of carbon steel from cold ferrous feed	3
Manufacture of newsprint	2
Manufacture of reconstituted wood-based panels	5
Packaging and industrial paper manufacturing	5
Petroleum refining	5
Printing and writing paper manufacturing	2
Production of ammonia	6
Production of ammonium nitrate	4
Production of bulk flat glass	1
Production of carbamide (urea)	1
Production of carbon black	0
Production of ceramic floor and wall tiles	1
Production of chlorine gas and sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) solution	6
Production of clinker	3
Production of coke oven coke	2
Production of copper	4
Production of ethene (ethylene)	1
Production of fused alumina	1
Production of fused zirconia	1
Production of glass beads	1
Production of glass containers	2
Production of high purity ethanol	4
Production of hydrogen peroxide	1
Production of iron ore pellets	1
Production of lime	5
Production of liquefied natural gas	6
Production of magnesia	2
Production of magnetite concentrate	7
Production of manganese	1
Production of methanol	1
Production of nickel	1
Production of polyethylene	1
Production of polymer grade propene (polymer grade propylene)	2
Production of rolled aluminium	1
Production of silicon	1
Production of sodium carbonate (soda ash) and sodium bicarbonate	1
Production of sodium silicate glass	1
Production of synthetic rutile	2
Production of white titanium dioxide (TiO ₂) pigment	2
Smelting zinc	3
Tissue paper manufacturing	5
Total	119

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	92
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 52		

CHAIR: Of the 40 projects, how many are in New South Wales?

Ms Wilson: Sorry, do you want—

CHAIR: Do you know how many are in New South Wales?

Ms Wilson: Within carbon farming? These figures are slightly out of date—actually, I think I would need to take those on notice

Answer:

1. As at 4 April 2013, 53 projects have been declared eligible under the Carbon Farming Initiative.
2. Fifteen of these projects are located in New South Wales. These comprise 11 landfill projects, three piggery projects and one sequestration project.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	93
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator McKenzie asked:

1. Can you provide an update of the total number of businesses or entities that have qualified for trade-exposed (EITE) assistance in Australia? Also specify the monies that have been delivered to date.
2. How many rural business or entities have received financial assistance trade-exposed (EITE) assistance to date? What is the value of this assistance (\$) to date?
3. CER has conducted a number of workshops over the last two years, what proportions of these workshops have been conducted in regional areas?

Answer:

1. As at 25 March 2013, the Clean Energy Regulator has approved 116 applications under the Jobs and Competitiveness Program (JCP), providing approximately 102 million free carbon units. Of these, approximately 88 million free carbon units have already been issued in the first allocation, and approximately 14 million free carbon units will be issued in the second allocation at the start of the 2013-14 financial year. The 88 million free carbon units issued to date have an estimated value of \$2.02 billion.
2. Data is not available on which JCP recipients are located in rural areas. However, of the estimated \$2.02 billion worth of assistance provided to date under the JCP, it is estimated that \$1.32 billion has been provided to facilities operating in regional Australia.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator has conducted 69 workshops since its inception on 2 April 2012, of which 10 workshops were conducted in regional areas. In recognition that some clients are unable to attend physical workshops, some of the workshops are also provided as a webinar which can be accessed through the Clean Energy Regulator website.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	94
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Payment of accounts		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 48		

Senator BIRMINGHAM: ... Has the regulator managed to improve its performance in this space?

...

Mr Chris Ramsden: I am sorry, we do not have the information for the remainder of that year, but I can certainly take that on notice and provide it to you.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator has improved its performance steadily in relation to on-time payments to suppliers across 2012-13. For the period 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012 approximately 66 per cent of payments were made within 30 days. For the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 approximately 79 per cent of payments were made within 30 days. This improvement is expected to continue.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	95
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Carbon pricing mechanism workshops		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 53		

Mr Carter: About 40 per cent of those have already booked a spot at the workshop. It is a little hard to differentiate the exact numbers around that, because some corporations have a number of facilities and they may just register under a controlling corporation name, for example, so it may be in excess of that.

CHAIR: So you do not know, for instance, of that 40 per cent, what the footprint that they cover is in terms of emissions?

Mr Carter: No, I do not have it broken down in that way.

CHAIR: Could that be done?

Mr Carter: We could certainly look at the footprint of those who attended, or intended to attend, the workshops.....

Answer:

Five-hundred and ninety-six people registered to attend the carbon pricing mechanism workshops run by the Clean Energy Regulator in February and March 2013. Ninety-two of the registrants were consultants, lawyers or representatives from financial institutions. The Clean Energy Regulator does not know how many liable entities were represented by these professional services firms.

The Clean Energy Regulator has focused the February and March 2013 workshops on liable entities that are likely to have an interim emissions number because the provisional surrender period for those entities commenced on 1 April 2013.

Based on emissions data reported under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* in the 2011-12 reporting period, registered participants at the February and March 2013 workshops represented around 84 per cent of total scope 1 emissions covered under the carbon pricing mechanism.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	96
Program:	CER		
Division/Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Waubra Wind Farm		
Hansard Page EC:	EC43		

Senator MADIGAN: My office has recently received a communication from a Mr Paul Jarman—who is the Assistant Director of Regional Projects in Planning Statutory Services at the Department of Planning and Community Development, Victoria—which confirms that the Waubra wind farm is noncompliant with Victorian planning legislation. As such, I assume it is therefore ineligible for Commonwealth accreditation. How many large-scale RECs has the Clean Energy Regulator issued to Acciona's 192-megawatt Waubra wind farm power station since operation commenced in July 2009?

Mr Livingston: I do not know the number of certificates.

Senator MADIGAN: Could you take that on notice

Answer:

Waubra Wind Farm was accredited on 10 March 2009. Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) can only be created for the electricity generation from the date of accreditation. The LGCs that have been registered for Waubra Wind Farm as at 25 March 2013 are:

Generation Year	LGCs Registered
2009	397,177
2010	609,654
2011	634,982
2012	673,173
2013 (to 25 March 2013)	110,882
Total LGCs registered	2,425,868

Under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* power stations must create LGCs for eligible generation before the end of the calendar year following the year the electricity was generated.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	97
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Waubra wind farm		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 43		

Senator MADIGAN: If the Waubra wind farm is noncompliant with the Victorian planning requirements, doesn't that automatically disqualify it from accreditation with the Clean Energy Regulator?

Mr Livingston: It is all speculation, realistically. It seems a surprising statement you have made.

Senator MADIGAN: Can you take that on notice.

Mr Livingston: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

If an accredited power station operates in contravention of a law of the Commonwealth, state and/or territory then it may be suspended by the Clean Energy Regulator in accordance with the section 30E (3) of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.

Clean Energy Regulator has not found the Waubra Wind Farm to be non-compliant with the Victorian planning requirements and its accreditation has not been suspended. The Waubra Wind Farm has been issued with the necessary permits required by the state departments and these permits are still current. Therefore, the power station is accredited and is receiving Large-scale Generation Certificates.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	98
Program:	CER		
Division/Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Waubra Wind Farm		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

The Commonwealth Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000 provides that ‘a power station must be operated in accordance with any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government planning and approval requirements.’

State planning compliance is a pre-requisite for the power station’s eligibility for commonwealth accreditation.

Without lawful commonwealth accreditation, a power station is not eligible to receive government subsidies, in this case, I refer to Large-scale Renewable Energy Certificates. In the ‘Application for Accreditation of a Power Station’ there are 35 questions. These questions are followed by a declaration.

Questions 23 follows:

23. Has the power station obtained all relevant planning, building or other approvals (Commonwealth, State/Territory and local)? List approvals, date obtained and expiry dates. I have recently sighted written communication from Mr Paul Jarman, Assistant Director Regional Projects, Planning Statutory Services, Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), Victoria, dated 5th of February 2013, which confirms that the Waubra Wind Farm is non-compliant with Victorian Planning Legislation and is therefore ineligible for Commonwealth accreditation.

1. How many Large-scale RECs has the Clean Energy Regulator illegally issued to Acciona’s 192 megawatt Waubra Wind Farm ‘power station’ since operation commenced in July 2009?
2. Has the Department ensured that the operation of the Waubra Wind farm reduces emissions of greenhouse gases, as is required under the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000, based on studying measurable data rather than computer modelling?
3. How many registered entities have applied for Large-scale RECs in the envelope of the Waubra Wind Farm?

Answer:

1. All renewable energy power stations currently accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, including the Waubra Wind Farm, were assessed and found to be compliant with Commonwealth, state, territory and local government regulations at the time their accreditation was granted. Ongoing compliance is monitored and supplemented by annual compliance statements and risk based audits. No certificates have been issued to non-compliant wind farms.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator issues Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) based on actual power station generation data. The Clean Energy Regulator, under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, is not required to carry out studies on the emission of greenhouse gases. However, a number of organisations have carried out studies on reduction of greenhouse emissions due to electricity generation by renewable energy power stations, such as wind farms. Please refer to the website links below about reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases due to electricity generation by renewable energy power stations, such as wind farms:
 - *Carbon Emissions Index* – Pitt and Sherry September 2012
www.pittsh.com.au/documents/20121214_CEDEX_December2012.pdf
 - “*Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Abatement from Wind Farms in Victoria*” – McLennan Magasanik Associates Pty Ltd 2006
www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/greenhouse_abatement_from_wind_report.pdf
3. There is one nominated person for the Waubra Wind Farm for the creation of LGCs based on actual electricity generation at the wind farm. The nominated person for Waubra Wind Farm is Pyrenees Wind Energy Developments Pty Ltd. This information is publically available at www.rec-registry.gov.au.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	99
Program:	CER		
Division/Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Wind farms – state planning regulations		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

1. How many Australian wind farms, both currently operating and yet to begin operating, are non-compliant with state planning regulations and therefore receiving commonwealth subsidy under a false eligibility for RECs?
2. How many Large-scale RECs has the Clean Energy Regulator illegally issued to non-compliant wind farms since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001?
3. Who is responsible for and what is the procedure for redeeming the monies issued by the Clean Energy Regulator for Large-scale RECs which have been obtained without compliance to state planning legislation and therefore under false eligibility for receiving Large-scale RECs?

Answer:

1. All renewable energy power stations currently accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* were assessed and found to be compliant with Commonwealth, state, territory and local government regulations at the time their accreditation was granted. Ongoing compliance is monitored and supplemented by annual compliance statements and risk based audits. The Clean Energy Regulator is satisfied that all accredited wind farms are complying with state planning legislations and are receiving Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) as appropriately. Power stations that have yet to begin operating have not been accredited by the Clean Energy Regulator. Any non-compliance by power stations that are seeking accreditation will be assessed during the accreditation process under the Act.
2. No certificates have been issued to non-compliant wind farms.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator only validates LGCs after receiving generation data from the accredited power station. No LGCs can be registered on the Renewable Energy Certificate Registry (the REC Registry) until a validation assessment has been completed. The Clean Energy Regulator does not issue money for LGCs. Trading of the LGCs is a commercial matter between sellers and buyers of LGCs in the open market. The ownership of the LGCs is tracked through the REC Registry (www.rec-registry.gov.au).

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	100
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Value of Large-scale Renewable Energy Certificates		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

1. Can the Clean Energy Regulator advise the monetary value of the Large-scale RECs that the Clean Energy Regulator has issued to wind farms since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001?
2. Can the Clean Energy Regulator advise the monetary value of the Large-scale RECs that the Clean Energy Regulator has issued to non-compliant wind farms since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001?

Answer:

1. The sale and purchase of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) is a commercial matter between the seller (the wind farm) and the buyer (liable entities). The Clean Energy Regulator does not track the sale prices of the LGCs. The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to put a monetary value on the LGCs issued to wind farms.
2. There are no non-compliant wind farms that are accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	101
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Large-scale Renewable Certificates – Australian energy consumer		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

Can the Clean Energy Regulator advise the total cost of the of Large-scale RECs that have been issued by the Clean Energy Regulator since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target the April 2001 to the Australian energy consumer?

Answer:

Sale and purchase of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) is a commercial matter between the buyer and the seller. The Clean Energy Regulator tracks the ownership but does not track the sale prices of the LGCs created by various power stations.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	102
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Australian Wind Farms		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

How many registered entities have applied for Large-scale RECs in the envelope of Australian Wind Farms?

Answer:

For power stations, the Clean Energy Regulator deals with one entity which can either be the owner or operator of the accredited power station. This entity is called the 'nominated person' under Section 15B of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*. 52 registered entities have applied for accreditation of 70 wind farms (as at the end of March 2013). However, only 63 accredited wind farms have created Large-scale Generation Certificates (as at the end of March 2013).

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	103
Program:	CER		
Division/Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Wind farms – union controlled investments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

1. How many RECs have been issued to the union controlled investments in wind farms?
2. At which locations?
3. In which states?
4. How many of these wind farms are owned by the states in which they operate?
5. Are these wind farms compliant with state planning legislation?
6. Are these wind farms compliant with the eligibility criteria of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000*?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator does not collect or record information relating to investors in wind farms, other than the identity of the owner/operator of the wind farm.
2. N/A.
3. N/A.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator provides information about owner/operator of wind farms on the public register of accredited power stations www.rec-registry.gov.au. The Clean Energy Regulator does not collect information about the shareholders of various wind farms that are accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*. The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to provide information about how many of these wind farms are owned by the states in which they operate.
5. All renewable energy power stations currently accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* were assessed and found to be compliant with Commonwealth, state, territory and local government regulations at the time their accreditation was granted. Ongoing compliance is monitored and supplemented by annual compliance statements and risk based audits.
6. See answer to Question 5.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	104
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Wind farms – Pacific Hydro		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

1. How many wind farms owned by Pacific Hydro, both currently operating and yet to begin operating, are compliant with state planning regulations? Are these wind farms compliant with noise regulations?
2. Are any or all of Pacific Hydro owned wind farms operating under false eligibility for REC accreditation?
3. How many Large-Scale RECs have been issued to Pacific Hydro owned wind farms? What is the total monetary value of commonwealth subsidy for these wind farms since they began operating?

Answer:

1. Pacific Hydro currently has 5 accredited and operating power stations. These power stations were found to be compliant with state planning regulations at the time they were accredited by the Clean Energy Regulator. Ongoing compliance is monitored and supplemented by annual compliance statements and risk based audits. The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to comment on the status of the 'yet to begin operating' power stations as they are not yet accredited by the Clean Energy Regulator.

The Clean Energy Regulator has copies of the development, building and environmental approvals issued by relevant Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments during the accreditation process under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*. Noise limits for wind farms in Australia are set by relevant states and territories. The Clean Energy Regulator has no reason to believe that any of the wind farms owned by Pacific Hydro that are currently accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* have relevant approvals.

2. All renewable energy power stations currently accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*, including the Pacific Hydro owned wind farms, were assessed and found to be compliant with Commonwealth, state, territory and local government regulations at the time their accreditation was granted. Ongoing compliance is monitored and supplemented by annual compliance statements and risk based audits.

3. Since accreditation, Pacific Hydro wind farms have registered a total of 3,421,163 Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs). The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to provide a monetary value of the LGCs created by Pacific Hydro's power stations as sale and purchase of LGCs is a commercial matter between Pacific Hydro and the LGC purchaser.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	105
Program:	CER		
Division/Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Wind farms – emissions reductions		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

1. Given that the objective of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000* is to ‘reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the electricity sector,’ can you advise what actions the Clean Energy Regulator will undertake to comply with its obligation to ensure actual rather than theoretical emissions reductions?
2. Has the Clean Energy Regulator verified the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector attributable to wind farms, the issuing of Large-scale RECs since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001, so that the industry does not breach the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000*?
3. Can the Clean Energy Regulator provide the actual data from coal fired power stations that provides evidence that wind turbines are compliant with the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act of 2000* and that there has been a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of issuing Large-scale RECs to wind farms?
4. Can the Clean Energy Regulator provide evidence, based on real-time measurable data that the operation of industrial wind turbines in Australia over the last ten years has led to a corresponding reduction in greenhouse gas emissions?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator validates Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) based on actual electricity generation data supplied by the accredited power stations. The Clean Energy Regulator has not undertaken any studies with regard to the reduction of greenhouse gases in the electricity sector as there is no requirement under the *Renewable energy (Electricity) Act 2000* to quantify the reduction. Please refer to the website links below about reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases:
 - *Carbon Emissions Index* – Pitt and Sherry September 2012
www.pittsh.com.au/documents/20121214_CEDEX_December2012.pdf
 - “*Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Abatement from Wind Farms in Victoria*” – McLennan Magasanik Associates Pty Ltd 2006
www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/greenhouse_abatement_from_wind_report.pdf

2. The Clean Energy Regulator has not carried out any studies about greenhouse gas emission reductions attributed to renewable power stations such as wind farms as there is no requirement under the legislation. However, a number of organisations have carried out studies about reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector. The above web links provide more information about emissions reductions due to electricity generation from renewable energy power stations.
3. Under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act) 2000* the Clean Energy Regulator does not collect the electricity generation data from coal powered power stations. However, studies by various organisations as in the above web links show that there has been a reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions as a result of electricity generation by the renewable energy power stations, such as wind farms.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator is not required to carry out greenhouse gas emission reduction studies. However, modelling and articles by various organisations such as those listed in above web links show reductions in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from electricity generated from renewable energy power stations, such as wind farms in Australia. The Clean Energy Regulator may consider undertaking such studies in the future.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	106
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Large-scale Renewable Energy Certificates		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Madigan asked:

What is the total amount of Large-scale RECs that have been issued by the Clean Energy Regulator since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001?

Answer:

As at 30 March 2013, a total of 115,217,521 Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) have been registered in the Renewable Energy Certificate Registry (the REC Registry) since the implementation of the Renewable Energy Target in April 2001. Please note this figure includes LGCs resulting from deemed installations from small solar, wind and hydro as well as solar water heaters until 2010. As at 30 March 2013 however, the number of LGCs registered in the REC Registry for accredited power stations is 64,954,530 (since April 2001).

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	107
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Launch of the Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

For the launch of the Regulator on 4 April 2012 at Lake Burley Griffin, please identify:

1. The number of invitations issued and the names of all people and/or organisations invited.
2. The number of attendees, as well as their names and/or organisations represented.
3. Were the Prime Minister, any Ministers or any Ministerial staff invited to attend? If so, who? Did any attend? If so, who?
4. Please identify and detail dates for any other activities associated with the launch, including any other activities marking commencement of the Clean Energy Act 2011 or establishment of the Regulator and any meetings conducted on or around the date of the launch.
5. Did any Members or staff of the Regulator travel to Canberra for the launch and/or associated meeting(s)? If so, please itemise travel and accommodation costs and detail who met these costs.

Answer:

1. Invitations to the launch of the Clean Energy Regulator (the launch) were issued to an estimated 400 people. This included ongoing, non-ongoing and contracted staff from the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator and the two divisions from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (the Department) that merged to form the Clean Energy Regulator.

Also invited to the launch were several senior staff from within the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Greg Combet AM MP, and staff from his Office and the Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, and staff from his Office.

An invitation was sent as a calendar appointment in Microsoft Outlook.

2. A headcount was not taken at the launch.

3. The Minister and Parliamentary Secretary, as well as the staff from their Offices were invited to the launch, but did not attend.
4. There were no other activities associated with the launch or the commencement of the Clean Energy Act 2011.
5. No.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	108
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Staffing and recruitment		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many ongoing staff have been recruited this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
2. How many non-ongoing positions exist or have been created this financial year to date? What classification are these staff?
3. This financial year to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?
4. How many ongoing staff have left the agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
5. How many non-ongoing staff left the agency this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
6. How many contract staff left the agency in the year this financial year to date? What classification were these staff?
7. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details including if there is a reduction target, how this will be achieved, and if any services/programs will be cut. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening.
8. How much has been spent on 2014 Graduate Recruitment to date? Please itemise and detail costs.
9. Has any travel been incurred for 2014 Graduate Recruitment? Please itemise and detail costs.
10. How much was spent on 2013 Graduate Training? Provide details of what training was provided, why and the estimated cost for each.

Answer:

1.

Classification	1 July 2012 – 28 February 2013
APS 3	3
APS 4	12
APS 5	11
APS 6	16
EL 1	7
EL 2	1
SES 1	2
GRAD	10
SLO1*	4
Grand Total	66

*SLO=Senior Legal Officer

Note: Due to data reporting limitations, the above table may include staff who were originally on boarded as non-ongoing employees, but are now ongoing employees.

2.

Classification	1 July 2012 – 28 February 2013
APS 4	4
APS 5	7
APS 6	6
EL 1	4
EL 2	2
Grand Total	23

Note: Due to data reporting limitations, the above table may exclude staff who were originally on boarded as non-ongoing employees, but are now ongoing employees.

3. All contracts entered into by the Clean Energy Regulator are published on AusTender at www.tenders.gov.au. Information on contract value, supplier, contract period and the type of work undertaken are provided.

4.

Classification	1 July 2012 – 28 February 2013
APS 4	4
APS 5	7
APS 6	5
EL 1	4
EL 2	2
SESB 1	2
GRAD	9
Grand Total	33

Note: Due to data reporting limitations, the above table may include staff who were originally on boarded as non-ongoing employees, but are now ongoing employees.

5.

Classification	1 July 2012 – 28 February 2013
APS 4	5
APS 5	5
APS 6	9
EL1	7
EL2	2
SLO	1
Grand Total	29

Note: Due to data reporting limitations, the above table may exclude staff who were originally on boarded as non-ongoing employees, but are now ongoing employees.

6. All contracts entered into by the Clean Energy Regulator are published on AusTender at www.tenders.gov.au. Information on contract value, supplier, contract period and the type of work undertaken are provided.
7. At present there are no plans for staff reductions. As of 28 February 2013 the Clean Energy Regulator had 357 FTE employees. The Clean Energy Regulator is forecasted to have an average staffing level of 355 for 2012-13 financial year.
8. As of 28 February 2013, no funds have been expensed in relation to the 2014 Graduate Recruitment Program.
9. There has been no travel expenditure incurred year to date in relation to the 2014 Graduate Recruitment.
10. As of 28 February 2013, no funds have been expensed in relation to the 2013 Graduate Recruitment Program.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	109
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	“Making the public service more efficient”		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Please provide an update of the savings achieved through pursuing further efficiencies in the way the public service operates (see media release by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Special Minister of State of 25 September 2012 http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_1982012.html).
2. Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for reductions in air travel?
3. Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
4. Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
5. Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
6. Has the agency reduced its printing costs? If no, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes why and how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding. The Clean Energy Regulator continually looks for opportunities to reduce operating costs and will investigate those categories identified by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, along with others, as possible savings opportunities.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator continually looks for opportunities to reduce travel by, for example, making greater use of video conferencing facilities. At this point the Clean Energy Regulator has not analysed its future year cost to this level of granularity and cannot provide estimates of travel costs in future years.
3. Given the infancy of the organisation, the Clean Energy Regulator currently relies on the policy developed by its portfolio agency, formally the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. The Clean Energy Regulator has commenced the development of its own policies, but the travel policy has not yet been finalised. The Clean Energy Regulator's restrictions on business class travel will be determined during the establishment of that policy.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding. The Clean Energy Regulator continually looks for opportunities to reduce operating costs and will investigate those categories identified by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, along with others, as possible savings opportunities.
5. In line with the delivery of the Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy by the Department of Finance and Deregulation in July 2012, the Clean Energy Regulator ceased all recruitment advertising in print media. The Clean Energy Regulator will continue to work closely with ADCORP (the whole of government media placement agency) to establish the best online media in which to advertise recruitment vacancies within the Clean Energy Regulator to ensure adherence to the Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy and to ensure effective cost savings to the Clean Energy Regulator.
6. The Clean Energy Regulator does not anticipate reducing printing costs. The Clean Energy Regulator will only print hard copies of a small number of essential publications. Only essential publications are printed in hard copy. Prior to a print run being agreed, a reasonable case arguing for a print run is required. All other publications are available on the Clean Energy Regulator's website. The Clean Energy Regulator will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding. The Clean Energy Regulator continually looks for opportunities to reduce operating costs and will investigate those categories identified by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, along with others, as possible savings opportunities.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 110
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Printing
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

How many documents (include the amount of copies) have been printed this financial year to date? How many of these printed documents were also published online?

Answer:

As at 28 February 2013, the Clean Energy Regulator has printed the following documents

Name of printed item	Number of copies printed	Available online?
Household/Agent Factsheets	7,500	Yes
Obligation Transfer Number Forms, Liability Transfer Certificate Forms, and Joint Venture Forms Note: Additional 5,280 pages printed since last QoN	25,515 pages	Yes
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007	13	Yes
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Regulations 2008	13	Yes
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination 2008	12	Yes
Clean Energy Act 2011	6	Yes
Clean Energy Regulations 2011	12	Yes
ORER 2011-12 Annual Report	400	Yes
Clean Energy Regulator 2011-12 Annual Report	500	Yes
Performance Approach	2,000	No
Performance Approach A1 Posters	11	No
Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011	50	Yes
Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011	50	Yes

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	111
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Government advertising		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What was the total cost of all advertising for the financial year to date?
2. Is the advertising campaign or non-campaign advertising? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services.
3. Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
4. Has the Peer Review Group (PRG) and/or Independent Communications Committee (ICC) provided any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item.
5. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies? Provide the details for each advertising item.
6. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services.
7. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

1. As at 28 February 2013, the total expenditure on all advertising in the 2012-13 financial year has been \$143,620.23 (GST Inclusive).
2. The advertising is related to the recruitment of staff and client outreach activities.
3. No.
4. No.
5. The Clean Energy Regulator has not undertaken any campaign advertising.

6. N/A.
7. The Clean Energy Regulator does not undertake campaign advertising. The Clean Energy Regulator will continue to undertake advertising for recruitment.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	112
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Hospitality and entertainment – Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the agency's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What is the agency's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What hospitality spend is the agency planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
4. What entertainment spend is the agency planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
5. Is the agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

Answer:

1. Nil.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator contributed \$2,976 to the Social Club to assist with the cost of hosting the 2012 Christmas Function.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.
5. No.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	113
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Meeting costs – Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the agency's meeting spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What meeting spend is the agency planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

1. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 the Clean Energy Regulator spent the following amounts on meeting cost:

Business Catering	\$6,385
Equipment Hire	\$462
Venue Hire	\$72,024
Total	\$78,871

To attempt to provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have a detailed plan of upcoming meetings. Meetings will be held on an as needs basis, consistent with business requirements.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	114
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Program Launch Costs – Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the agency's program launch spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events, including any catering and drinks costs.
2. What program launch spend is the agency planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
3. What is the agency's program launch spend for 2011-12? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event including any catering and drinks costs.

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator has no expenditure in relation to program launch in the current financial year.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator has no plans for program launch events.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator spent \$16,836 (GST inclusive) from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012. This cost was in relation to the launch of the Clean Energy Regulator on 4 April 2012 at Lake Burley Griffin.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	115
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Freedom of information requests		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the agency to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. How many FOI requests has the agency received for this financial year to date?
4. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the agency failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

1. Yes. The Clean Energy Regulator has received advice about the interaction of secrecy provisions in the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* and the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
2. Officers of the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency have assisted the Clean Energy Regulator to manage its Freedom of Information responsibilities under a shared services agreement. Under that agreement, the former Department has invoiced the Clean Energy Regulator \$5,783.45 for the period 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2013.
3. For the 2012-13 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator has received eight Freedom of Information requests (as at 31 March 2013).
4. Of the eight requests received by the Clean Energy Regulator during the 2012- 13 financial year (as at 31 March 2013):
 - Five are yet to be completed;
 - These requests are progressing through various stages of processing, third party consultation and decision-making.
 - Two requests were granted in part; and
 - One request was granted in full.

The Clean Energy Regulator has complied with its statutory deadlines for processing Freedom of Information requests.

The Clean Energy Regulator has five outstanding Freedom of Information requests. As noted above, these requests are progressing according to the applicable statutory timeframes.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	116
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Reviews		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

For this financial year to date:

1. How many Reviews are being undertaken?
2. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
3. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
5. Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
7. What reviews are planned?
8. When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator has not undertaken any reviews this financial year to date and does not have any reviews planned.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	117
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Consultancies		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken this financial year to date? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.
2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answer:

1. All consultancy arrangements are published on AusTender at www.tenders.gov.au, including the contract value of consultancy arrangements.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator Annual Procurement Plan is currently published on AusTender and does not list any planned consultancies. The Clean Energy Regulator will assess business requirements and outcomes on an as needs basis to determine if consultancy services are required. The Clean Energy Regulator will undertake the appropriate procurement process as required by the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and the Clean Energy Regulator's Chief Executive Instructions.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	118
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Media monitoring – Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the agency for this financial year to date?

- a. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
- b. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year 2012-13?
- c. What has been spent providing these services this financial year to date?

Answer:

- a. Media monitoring services are provided by AAP. MediaNet is used to distribute media releases.
- b. The estimated budget for these services for 2012-13 was \$180,000.
- c. As at 28 February 2013, the total cost of media monitoring services provided to the Clean Energy Regulator for this financial year was \$120,000.

Media monitoring services are provided to the Clean Energy Regulator through a shared services arrangement with the portfolio department (formerly the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency). Payment is made to the Department for these services. The contract for media monitoring services is maintained by the Department.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	119
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Social media		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have there been any changes to agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.
2.
 - a. Does the agency monitor usage of social media?
 - b. If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).
 - c. Has there been a change to agency protocols due to staff usage?
 - d. If no, why not? Will the agency monitor usage in the future?
3. Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours).

Answer:

1. There have been no changes since May 2012 Budget Estimates. The Clean Energy Regulator currently follows the portfolio department's protocol (formerly the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency).
2.
 - a. Yes
 - b. The Clean Energy Regulator monitors usage of social media through the Triton Unified Security Websense tool, hosted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This is currently monitored by the IT Security Advisor. For the period of 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2013, social media has made up four per cent of the total Agency internet browse time.
 - c. There has been no change to agency protocols due to staff usage.
 - d. Staff usage is considered to be within reasonable limits and is in line with Agency policy.

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3. The impact on productivity is negligible, as social media has comprised an average of 5.5 minutes total browse time each business day per user.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	120
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Internet		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the agency experienced any internet problems, such as but not limited to slow internet, or internet blackouts? If yes, what was the reason for this? Did it impact the Minister's office?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator has experienced three internet interruptions since 2 April 2012.
2. Internet access is provided to the Clean Energy Regulator through a Memorandum of Understanding with the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (the Department). The Department has advised that the Clean Energy Regulator has experienced three interruptions to internet services since 2 April 2012. The first interruption occurred on 9 July 2012 and affected services for approximately 42 minutes. The interruption was caused by a power surge at 5 Farrell Place.

The second interruption occurred on 10 November 2012 and affected internet services for approximately 90 minutes. The interruption was caused by maintenance activities performed by Macquarie Telecom the external network provider to the Department.

The third interruption occurred on 4 January 2013 and affected services for seven hours and 13 minutes overnight. The interruption was caused by a fault at Macquarie Telecom.

Importantly, the Clean Energy Regulator is not aware of any adverse impact of these outages on its clients in meeting their legislative obligations.

3. The interruptions caused by Macquarie Telecom resulted in a 90 minute interruption of internet services to the Minister's Office in November 2012 and seven hours and thirteen minutes in January 2013.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	121
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Staff amenities		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

What amenities are provided to staff? Provide a list.

Answer:

- The Clean Energy Regulator provides a range of amenities to staff in its office location at 5 Farrell Place, Canberra. These include:
- Kitchens;
- Kitchen utilities (fridges, sandwich makers, microwave ovens, kettles, coffee machines, dishwashers);
- First aid rooms;
- Disabled toilets / showers;
- Bike cage;
- Lockers and change rooms;
- Male / female showers; and
- Nursing / prayer room.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	122
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Coffee Machines		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the agency purchased coffee machines for staff useage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
2. Why were coffee machines purchased?
3. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were purchased? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
4. Where did the funding for the coffee machines come from?
5. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
6. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?
7. Does the agency rent coffee machines for staff useage? If yes, provide a list that includes the type of coffee machine, the cost, the amount, and any ongoing costs such as purchase of coffee or coffee pods and when the machine was purchased.
8. Why are coffee machines rented?
9. Has there been a noticeable difference in staff productivity since coffee machines were rented? Are staff leaving the office premises less during business hours as a result?
10. Where does the funding for the coffee machines come from?
11. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the coffee machines? How much was spent on maintenance in this financial year to date, include a list of what maintenance has been undertaken. Where does the funding for maintenance come from?
12. What are the ongoing costs of the coffee machine, such as the cost of coffee?

Answer:

- 1-2. Please refer to Question on Notice No. 175 from the October 2012 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing.
3. This data is not available.
- 4-5. Please refer to Question on Notice No. 175 from the October 2012 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing.
6. The only ongoing costs relating to the coffee machines involve the individual coffee pods and straw nozzles for the milk. All of the ongoing costs are covered through a pay per use system which is managed by the Clean Energy Regulator Social Committee.
7. The Clean Energy Regulator does not rent any coffee machines. The coffee machines have been purchased outright.
- 8-12. N/A.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	123
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Contractors		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What contractors have been employed by the agency? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
2. Has the agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
3. Has the agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
4. Has the agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
5. Has the agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
6. Has the agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
7. Has the agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
8. Has the agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).
9. Has the agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost).

10. Has the agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

1. All contracts entered into by the Clean Energy Regulator are published on AusTender at www.tenders.gov.au. Information on contract value, supplier, contract period and the type of work undertaken are provided.

2-10. No.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	124
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Grants		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Could the agency provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for this financial year to date? Please provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
2. Have all grant agreement details been published on its website within the required timeframe? If not, provide details.
3. Provide a list of grants that your agency administers that had uncommitted grants funding reduced as per the statement by the Finance Minister on 22 October 2012 (see http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr_2102012.html). How much was funding reduced for grant?

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator does not have any grant programs.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	125
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Commissioned reports		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many agency staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

The Australian Government has not commissioned the Clean Energy Regulator to provide any reports outside its already legislated work program.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 126
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Government payment of accounts
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For this financial year to date, has the agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not? Provide details, including what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached).
2. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. For the period 1 July 2012 to 27 March 2013 the Clean Energy Regulator paid 1,107 invoices for contracting and consulting services, of those 879 or 79.4 per cent were paid within 30 days. The following table summarises the timing of consultancy and contractor payments for the period 1 July 2012 to 27 March 2013.

	Less than 30 days	Between 30-45 days	Between 46-60 days	Greater than 60 days	TOTAL
Invoices	879	88	64	76	1,107
Percentage	79.40%	7.95%	5.78%	6.87%	100%

2. The invoices paid after 30 days resulted from invoices being contested, invoices issued by the vendor prior to final delivery of the goods/services, invoices issued by the vendor with incomplete information, or due to administrative oversight.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator has not paid late fees or interest on the invoices paid outside the standard government payment terms during the period 1 July 2012 to 27 March 2013.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	127
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Stationery requirements – Clean Energy Regulator		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

What are the agency's stationery costs for the financial year to date?

Answer:

From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013, the cost of stationery was \$145,674.55 (including GST).

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	128
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Media subscriptions		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What pay TV subscriptions does your agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of what channels and the reason for each channel.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. What newspaper subscriptions does your agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of newspaper subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. What magazine subscriptions does your agency have?
 - a. Please provide a list of magazine subscriptions and the reason for each.
 - b. What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have any pay TV subscriptions.
2.
 - a. The Clean Energy Regulator subscribes to newspapers in order to keep up to date with current events that may impact on the Regulator. The Clean Energy Regulator subscribes to the following newspapers:
 - i. The Australian;
 - ii. Canberra Times;
 - iii. Australian Financial Review; and
 - iv. The Age.
 - b. As at 28 February 2013, the cost of newspapers for this financial year is \$2,669.90 (GST Inclusive).
3. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have any magazine subscriptions.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	129
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Travel costs		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for agency officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals).
2. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for agency officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
3. What travel is planned for the rest of this financial year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
4. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
5. Are the Government's Lowest Practical Fare travel policy for Domestic Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/10) and Best Fare of the Day for International Air Travel (Finance Circular No. 2009/11) guidelines being followed? How is the department/agency following the advice? How is this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
6. Are lounge memberships provided to any employees? If yes, what lounge memberships, to how many employees and their classification, the reason for the provision of lounge membership and the total costs of the lounge memberships.
7. When SES employees travel, do any support or administrative staff (such as an Executive Assistant) travel with them? If yes, provide details of why such a staff member is needed and the costs of the support staff travel.
8. Does the agency elect to offset emissions for employees work related travel? If yes, what is the cost?

Answer:

1. There has been no travel by Clean Energy Regulator officers accompanying the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
2. The travel costs for the Clean Energy Regulator from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 are:

Travel Category	Expenses (including GST)
Airfares	\$365,737
Accommodation	\$107,236
Travel Allowance	\$88,117
Car Hire	\$8,472
Taxi Fares	\$62,427
Parking, Fares & Tolls	\$3,186
Total	\$635,175

Travel was undertaken by various Clean Energy Regulator staff to conduct official Regulator business.

The Clean Energy Regulator does not record travel data in a way that would readily allow more detailed answers to be provided to these questions. To attempt to provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

3. The Clean Energy Regulator expects that further travel will be undertaken between now and 30 June 2013. Travel will be approved on an as needs basis consistent with business requirements.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator expects that further travel will be undertaken between now and 31 December 2013. Travel will be approved on an as needs basis consistent with business requirements.
5. The Australian Government's policy for Domestic and International Air Travel is being followed by the Clean Energy Regulator. When formally requesting to undertake travel, staff are directed to ensure that they follow these guidelines and policy, and the approver is also instructed to ensure the guidelines have been followed before approving the travel. This activity is monitored through a centrally coordinated process of review where travel reports are regularly evaluated to assess compliance.
6. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 expenditure on Lounge Memberships was \$1,334 (including GST). They were made up of the following classifications:

Classification	Number of staff	Membership Type
EL2	1	Qantas Club
SES1	2	Qantas Club
Total	3	-

7. No.
8. No.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	130
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Legal costs		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What sum did the agency spend on legal services for this financial year to date within the agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
2. What sum did the agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
3. What sum did the agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.
4. What sum did the agency spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013, expenditure on legal services within the Clean Energy Regulator was \$362,295. This reflects the costs of the Clean Energy Regulator's in-house General Counsel and Legal Services Section. Neither the General Counsel nor the Legal Services Section time-cost, so it is not possible to provide a list of each service and cost.
2. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 the spend on Australian Government Solicitor legal services was \$208,054 (excluding GST).
3. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 the spend on legal services from private firms was \$311,018 (excluding GST)
4. The Clean Energy Regulator has sourced legal services and advice from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 the cost of these services was \$92,484 (excluding GST – GST is not charged on related Government invoices from 1 July 2012). There was no expenditure on legal services from other sources.

To require the Clean Energy Regulator to review all of its legal services and expenditure to provide a breakdown of the nature and cost of each legal service covered by questions two, three and four would be an unreasonable diversion of government resources and potentially disclose sensitive information (including commercial in confidence information and/or information that would ordinarily be covered by legal professional privilege).

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	131
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Education expenses		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What are the agency's guidelines on study?
2. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in-house courses and tertiary studies) for the agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, the employment classification of each participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant (provide a breakdown for each employment classification). Also include the reason for the study and how it is beneficial for the agency.

Answer:

1. Clean Energy Regulator staff have access to studies assistance as outlined in their relevant enterprise agreement (either the *Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014* or the *Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014*). These agreements are publicly available.

Consistent with the relevant Enterprise Agreements, the Clean Energy Regulator is committed to building staff capability through the provision of study assistance arrangements. Employees undertaking formal study, which is relevant to business requirements, may be eligible for reimbursement of course fees up to the cost of the course and/or study leave of up to 75 hours per semester. The amount of reimbursement and study hours is at the discretion of the delegate and depends on business needs and relevance of the course to the immediate work area or needs of the agency.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator is still establishing and building reporting capability. At present, the Clean Energy Regulator does not collect data in relation to training and development activity within the agency although individuals and sections may register or purchase ad hoc services directly subject to delegate approval. The Clean Energy Regulator's financial records show a total of \$250,466.65 (including GST) was expended on training and development activities. No detailed information is available.

In-House courses

One centrally coordinated in-house education course was run in 2012-13. This was a series of sessions to support effective performance conversations. It was conducted by Workforce Strategies at a cost of \$22,990 (including GST) in the 2012-13 and was attended by 53 staff from all levels across the Clean Energy Regulator.

Reimbursement of tertiary study costs

The Clean Energy Regulator has approved \$39,975 (including GST) in reimbursed studies assistance for 2012-13 as at 28 February 2013. While this is the total approved, final reimbursement and expenditure is dependent on proof of successful completion of the pre-approved course of study.

Advice is provided to approving delegates on the relevance of the study to the immediate area or Clean Energy Regulator at the time of application on a case-by-case basis, and is not centrally available.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	132
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Executive coaching and leadership training		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged.

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package)

Where a service was provided at any location other than the agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used

- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion (provide a breakdown for each employment classification).
- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the agency has incurred to use the location

Answer:

The total expenditure on executive coaching and / or other leadership training services purchased for the Clean Energy Regulator for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 is \$23,265.

The table at Attachment A provides a breakdown of the services purchased for executive coaching and / or other leadership training for the Clean Energy Regulator for the financial year to date.

ATTACHMENT A

Service	Service Provider	One-on-one or group based	Location	No. of employees	Total hours	Cost	Description of costs	Location cost component
EL1 Leading and Managing Small Teams	APSC	Group	Bowral, NSW	1 x EL1	24	\$4,290	Complete package	Included in course cost
Executive Coaching Program	Executive Central	One-on-one	On site – 5 Farrell Place, Canberra ACT 2601	1 x SES1	6 months (part time)	\$13,200	Complete package	N/A
High Performing Teams – Management Coaching	Career Boost	Group	On site – 5 Farrell Place, Canberra ACT 2601	4 x EL2	16	\$5,775	Complete package	N/A
Total						\$23,265		

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	133
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Media training		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

In relation to media training services purchased by the agency, please provide the following information for this financial year to date:

1. Total spending on these services
2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification
3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
4. The names of all service providers engaged.

For each service purchased from a provider listed under (4), please provide:

- a. The name and nature of the service purchased
- b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based
- c. The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- d. The total number of hours involved for all employees (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- e. The total amount spent on the service
- f. A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package).

Where a service was provided at any location other than the agency's own premises, please provide:

- i. The location used
- ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion

- iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part (provide a breakdown for each employment classification)
- iv. Any costs the agency incurred to use the location

Answer:

No media training services have been purchased by the Clean Energy Regulator for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	134
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Paid Parental Leave		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Please list how many staff in the agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
2. For this financial year to date list which agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.
3. What is the paid parental scheme offered by each agency? How many staff have used the scheme this financial year to date.

Answer:

1. For staff to be considered eligible for payment under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme they must meet specific criteria such as: being the primary carer of a newborn or recently adopted child, meet specific PPL work test criteria and income test criteria, and be on leave or not working from the time of becoming the child's primary carer until the end of the paid parental leave period. Between 1 July 2012 and 28 February 2013, six female staff members accessed maternity leave and five male staff members accessed parental leave, however some of these individuals may not have met all of the eligibility requirements.
2. As at 28 February 2013, two employees, an EL1 and an APS4, had received Paid Parental Leave payment during the 2012-13 financial year.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator offers employees the entitlements of parental leave in accordance with
 - a. the National Employment Standards (NES),
 - b. the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973* and/or
 - c. Division 5 of Part 2-2 of the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

Twelve weeks paid Maternity Leave is provided to eligible employees under the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973*.

The relevant Enterprise Agreements (Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) Enterprise Agreement 2011-14 and the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014) provide two weeks paid leave to be taken immediately following the 12 week period of Maternity Leave provided for under the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973*, to count for service for all purposes. Employees entitled to paid maternity leave under the *Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973* may elect to either:

- take an entitlement of 14 week period of absence at full pay, or
- take an additional 14 weeks on Maternity Leave without pay, and spread their payment for the 14 week period of required absence over the total period of absence of 28 weeks, at a rate of half normal salary. The additional leave beyond the 14 weeks will not count as service for any purpose.

The DCCEE Enterprise agreement specifically states that employees who are the primary caregivers are eligible for up to 52 weeks unpaid parental leave.

Six female staff members accessed maternity leave and five male staff members accessed parental leave in the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	135
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Corporate cars		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many cars are owned by the agency?
2. Where is the car/s located?
3. What is the car/s used for?
4. What is the cost of each car for this financial year to date?
5. How far did each car travel this financial year to date?

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator does not own any cars.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 136
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Taxi costs
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did the agency spend on taxis this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown for each business group in the agency.
2. What are the reasons for taxi costs?

Answer:

1. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 expenditure on taxis was \$62,427.05 (including GST).

Division	Description	Expenditure
Clean Energy Regulator Corporate Costs	Taxi Fares	\$26,523.21
Renewable Energy Target and Carbon Farming Initiative	Taxi Fares	\$18,259.63
Regulatory	Taxi Fares	\$6,724.62
Clean Energy Regulator Delivery	Taxi Fares	\$10,919.59
Total		\$62,427.05

2. Travel by taxi was undertaken by various Clean Energy Regulator staff to conduct official Regulator business.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 137
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Hire cars
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much did the agency spend on hire cars this financial year to date? Provide a breakdown of each business group in the department.
2. What are the reasons for hire car costs?

Answer:

1. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 expenditure on Hire Cars was \$8,471.85 (including GST).

Division	Description	Expenditure
Clean Energy Regulator Corporate Costs	Hire Cars	\$2,179.93
Renewable Energy Target and Carbon Farming Initiative	Hire Cars	\$6,180.02
Regulatory	Hire Cars	\$111.89
Total		\$8,471.85

2. Hire Cars were used by various Clean Energy Regulator staff to conduct official Regulator business.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 138
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Credit cards
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.
2. Please update details of the following?
 - a. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
 - b. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
 - c. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
 - d. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
 - e. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

1. Staff with a corporate credit card by employment classification.

Classification	Number of staff
APS4	15
APS5	13
APS6	21
EL1	22
EL2	26
SES1	14
SES2	3
CEO	1
Total	115

2. a. Misuse is handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

- b. Use of credit cards is monitored through monthly reconciliations completed by the card holder which are then approved by the cardholder's manager. Credit card holders are required to obtain approvals to all spending proposals prior to undertaking any purchases, and credit cards are periodically reviewed to ensure they are still required and the limits are appropriate.
- c. Please refer to the answer provided at Part 2 a.
- d. As at 28 February 2013, there have been no instances of credit card misuse in the Clean Energy Regulator.
- e. The Chief Executive Officer has issued instructions on the use of corporate credit cards that can be found on the agency's intranet. In addition all staff issued with a corporate credit card sign a 'conditions of use' form which outlines their responsibilities with regards to their credit card use. Card holders are required to reconcile their expenditure monthly and have their reconciliation approved by their manager.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 139
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Provision of equipment – agency
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as iPad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive) provided to agency staff? If yes provide details of what is provided, the purchase cost, the ongoing cost and a breakdown of what staff and staff classification receives it.

Answer:

Standard electronic equipment is provided to all classifications of Clean Energy Regulator staff as required and with appropriate delegate approvals. This equipment may include:

Equipment	Purchase Costs (including GST)	Ongoing Costs (including GST)
Data Card	\$29.00	\$29.00 per month
RSA Token	\$90.00	\$6.62 per year
Laptop	\$1235.96	N/A
Computer	\$774.22	N/A
Monitor	\$652.96	N/A
Printer	\$388.00 to \$2,876.94	N/A
MFD	\$11,150.37	N/A
Fax	\$300.00 to \$544.50	N/A
Label Printer	\$300.00	N/A
Desk Phone	\$540.00	N/A
USB Flash Drive	\$11.66	N/A
4G Modem	\$197.00	N/A

Blackberries, iPhones, Mobile phones and tablet devices are in most cases reserved for staff at the EL2 and above, however at times are issued to lower level support staff, such as executive assistants when a business case and justification is granted.

The electronic equipment issued to staff includes:

Equipment	Purchase Costs (including GST)	Ongoing Costs (including GST)
Mobile Phone	\$210.00	\$4.99 per month + call costs
Blackberry	\$715.00	\$44.95 per month + call costs
Tablet	\$812.87	\$29.00 per month
iPhone	\$1165.00	\$34.00 per month + call costs

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	140
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Electricity purchasing		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What are the details of the agency electricity purchasing agreement?
2. What are the agency electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. Electricity is paid through a shared services arrangement with the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.
2. From 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013, the Clean Energy Regulatory has incurred costs of \$60,863 (GST exclusive) for electricity.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	141
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

2. Have any briefings and/or provision of information been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
 - a. How are briefings requests commissioned?
 - b. What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
 - c. Provide details of what information has been provided and a copy of the information.
 - d. Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details of what the requests were and why it could not proceed.
 - e. How long is spent preparing and undertaking briefings/information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
 - f. Which Independents have requested briefings and/or information?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator provides information and briefings to the Australian Greens on the same basis as it provides information to the Opposition and the cross-benchers – at the request of the Minister.
 - a. Refer to the comment above.
 - b. Briefings are generally provided orally, covering a range of issues.
 - c. N/A
 - d. No.
 - e. Such briefings are incorporated in the general work of the relevant areas of the Clean Energy Regulator, and not separately identified.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator provides information and briefings to the Independents on the same basis as it provides information to the Opposition and the cross-benchers – at the request of the Minister.
 - a. Refer to the comment above.
 - b. Briefings are generally provided orally, covering a range of issues.
 - c. N/A.
 - d. No.
 - e. Such briefings are incorporated in the general work of the relevant areas of the Clean Energy Regulator, and not separately identified
 - f. The Clean Energy Regulator has not received any requests for briefings or information from any Independents.

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Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	142
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Shredders		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Has the agency purchased any shredders this financial year? If yes, provide details of how many shredders were purchased, the cost of each shredder, why each new shredder was needed and the purpose for which the shredder is to be used.

Answer:

No.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	143
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Protective Security Policy Framework		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Provide an update for your agency, including what is your current compliance level, what are you doing to manage risk, what is being done to comply with the mandatory requirements and details of any department specific policies and procedures.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator commenced operation on 2 April 2012 and is working toward achieving full compliance with the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF). Progress against the mandatory requirements of the PSPF is monitored by the Security Management Committee.

The Clean Energy Regulator has undertaken a threat and risk assessment to inform the development of its policies. The ongoing development and implementation of these policies and resulting procedures is progressing well and is a major focus of the Security Management Committee. The Clean Energy Regulator continues to leverage its security framework from the portfolio department.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	144
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Office locations		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Please provide a list of all office locations for the agency by:

- a. Location;
- b. Leased or Owned;
- c. Size;
- d. Number of Staff at each location and classification;
- e. If rented, the amount and breakdown of rent per square metre;
- f. If owned, the value of the building;
- g. Depreciation of buildings that are owned;
- h. Type of functions and work undertaken.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator occupies one building.

- a. The building is located at 5 Farrell Place, Canberra, ACT, 2601.
- b. The building is leased to the Clean Energy Regulator by Willemsen Investment Corporation.
- c. 7,147m².

- d. As of 28 February 2013, 365 APS staff are located at 5 Farrell Place, Canberra. The staff by classification are as follows:

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing
Grad	5	-
APS 3	6	-
APS 4	22	11
APS 5	45	8
APS 6	78	12
EL 1	90	6
EL 2	54	4
Tech. Officers	7	-
SES 1	14	-
SES 2	3	-
Sub total	324	41

- e. The breakdown of rent per square metre equates to \$462 per square metre (including GST)
- f. N/A.
- g. N/A.
- h. The Clean Energy Regulator undertakes a broad range of functions to facilitate participation in and ensure the integrity of:
- Australia's carbon pricing mechanism, which came into effect on 1 July 2012; and
 - previously established mechanisms for monitoring and strengthening Australia's response to climate change, namely the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme, the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units, the Carbon Farming Initiative, and the Renewable Energy Target.

The Clean Energy Regulator's roles include educating clients, determining entitlements and liabilities, accrediting auditors, managing access to registries and publishing information.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 145
Program: CER
Agency: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Communications staff
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. For the agency, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:
 - a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.
 - b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location
 - d. How many are graphic designers?
 - e. How many are media managers?
 - f. How many organise events?
2. Does the agency have independent media studios? If yes, why? When was it established? What is the set up cost? What is the ongoing cost? How many staff work there and what are their classifications?

Answer:

1. a. As at 28 February 2013, the following staff were in ongoing communications roles are the Clean Energy Regulator. All staff are located in Canberra.

Number of staff	Classification	Type of work
1	EL2	Manager
5	EL1	Communications account manager
1	APS6	Media management
1	APS6	Graphic design
1	APS6	Online communications
1	APS5	Communications support

- b. As at 28 February 2013, the following staff were in non-ongoing communication roles at the Clean Energy Regulator. All staff are located in Canberra.

Number of staff	Classification	Type of work
1	EL1	Internal communications
1	APS5	Internal communications
1	APS5	Communications support

- c. There are no contractors employed in fully dedicated communications roles.
- d. Please see the response to question one, part a.
- e. Please see the response to question one, part a.
- f. Please see the response to question one, part a.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have an independent media studio.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	146
Program:	CER		
Agency:	Clean Energy Regulator		
Topic:	Grants freeze		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much has grant funding been reduced across the agency as a result of the grants freeze?
2. Please detail all variations to grants (ie reductions, rephasing etc) that have occurred this financial year.
3. Has the agency been required to find any other savings in this financial year? Please detail all such savings.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator does not have any grant programs.