

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 123 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – Hawker Britton | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ Hawker Britton in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 124 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – Shannon’s Way | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed Shannon’s Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon’s Way? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ Shannon’s Way in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 125 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – John Utting & UMR Research Group | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 126 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – McCann-Erickson | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ McCann-Erickson in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 127 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – Cutting Edge | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ Cutting Edge in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 128 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – Ikon Communications | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ Ikon Communications in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 129 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – CMAX Communications | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ CMAX Communications in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 130 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – Boston Consulting Group | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ Boston Consulting Group in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 131 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors – McKinsey & Company | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

For this financial year to date, has the CER ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details.

Answer:

In the 2011/12 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator did not employ McKinsey & Company in any capacity.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 132 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Contractors - General | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: For this financial year to date, what contractors have been employed by the CER? Provide details (including the work undertaken and the cost)

Answer:

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.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 133 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Division: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Social Media - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

Has there been any changes to the CER's social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

Answer:

No. The Clean Energy Regulator was established on 2 April 2012 and did not exist prior to the Australian Public Service Commission circular being issued.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 134 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Media Monitoring - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the CER for this financial year to date?
2. Which agency or agencies provided these services?
3. What is the estimated budget to provide these same services for the year 2012-13?

Answer:

1. The total cost of media monitoring services provided to the Clean Energy Regulator for the period from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 was \$63,486.
1. Media monitoring services are provided to the Clean Energy Regulator through a shared services arrangement with the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (the Department). The contract for media monitoring services is maintained by the Department.
2. The estimated budget for these services in 2012-13 was \$253,944.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 135 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Consultancies - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher 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 will assess business requirements and outcomes on a needs basis to determine if consultancy services are required. There are no forecasted consultancies currently published in the Clean Energy Regulator's Annual Procurement Plan (APP). The Clean Energy Regulator will utilise existing panel arrangements as required in line with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and the Clean Energy Regulator's Chief Executive's Instructions.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 136 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Hospitality and Entertainment - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What is the CER's hospitality spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
2. What hospitality spend is the CER planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
3. What is the CER's entertainment spend for this financial year to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
4. What entertainment spend is the CER planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.
5. Is the CER planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator has spent \$16,836 (GST inclusive) on hospitality 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.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator has no plans for hospitality expenditure.
3. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 there has been no spending attributed to entertainment.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator has no plans for entertainment expenditure.
5. N/A.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 137 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Advertising - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher 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 CER undertaking, or are planning to undertake?

Answer:

1. Excluding advertising for recruitment activities, from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 the Clean Energy Regulator has not incurred any costs for advertising.
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. N/A

5. N/A

6. N/A

7. N/A

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 138 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Staffing – Graduates – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: What was the cost for recruiting 2012 Graduates? Please itemise and detail costs.

Answer:

While the Clean Energy Regulator participated in the Portfolio wide graduate program, the recruitment cost was carried by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 139 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Staffing – Graduate Training - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked: Will there be any training after the 2012 Calendar year for 2012 Graduates? If yes, please detail costs and what the training is.

Answer:

No.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 140
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Staffing – SES – CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

Please list the SES positions have you in your agency this financial year to date. Identify the different levels and how many are permanent positions.

Answer:

As at 30 June 2012, the Clean Energy Regulator has 17 positions at the Senior Executive Service Level. The breakdown of these positions is as follows:

| Position | Ongoing | Temporary | Total |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Senior Executive Service Band One | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Senior Executive Service Band Two | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 11 | 6 | 17 |

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 141
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Staffing - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. How many ongoing staff 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?

Answer:

1. As the Clean Energy Regulator was established on 2 April 2012, all ongoing staff were recruited in the 2011-12 financial year. As at 30 June 2012, there were 291 ongoing staff members. The breakdown by classification is as follows:

| | Ongoing |
|--------------|----------------|
| Grad | 5 |
| APS3 | 4 |
| APS4 | 29 |
| APS5 | 40 |
| APS6 | 69 |
| EL1 | 80 |
| EL2 | 45 |
| PAO3* | 3 |
| SES1 | 13 |
| SES2 | 2 |
| SPSEO** | 1 |
| Total | 291 |

* PAO = Public Affairs Officer

** SPSEO = Senior Principal Scientific Executive Officer

2. As the Clean Energy Regulator was established on 2 April 2012, all non-ongoing positions were created in the 2011-12 financial year. As at 30 June 2012, 56 non ongoing positions existed in the Clean Energy Regulator. The breakdown by classification is as follows:

| | Non ongoing |
|--------------|--------------------|
| APS3 | 1 |
| APS4 | 15 |
| APS5 | 5 |
| APS6 | 20 |
| EL1 | 9 |
| EL2 | 5 |
| SES2 | 1 |
| Total | 56 |

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.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 142
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Government Payment of Accounts - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. For this financial year to date, has the CER paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
2. 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)
3. 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?
4. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. From the period 2 April to 30 June 2012 the Clean Energy Regulator has paid 432 invoices for contracting and consulting services, of those 294 or 68.06 per cent were paid within 30 days.
2. The following table summarises the timing of consultancy and contractor payments for the period 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012.

| | Less than 30 days | Between 30-45 days | Between 45-60 days | Greater than 60 days | TOTAL |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|
| Invoices | 294 | 54 | 49 | 35 | 432 |
| Percentage | 68.06% | 12.50% | 11.34% | 8.10% | 100% |

3. 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.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator has not paid late fees or interest on the invoices paid outside the standard government payment terms during the period 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 143 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Stationary Requirements - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What is the CER's stationery costs for the financial year to date?
2. What was the CER's stationery costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?

Answer:

1. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 the expenditure on stationery was \$18,370.23 (GST Exclusive).
2. N/A.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 144 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Media Subscriptions – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Has there been any change to your pay TV subscription since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what channels.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?
2. Has there been any change to your newspaper subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?
3. Has there been any change to your magazine subscriptions since the 2011-12 Additional Estimates (February 2012)?
 - a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.
 - b) What is the cost for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have a pay television subscription.
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 regularly subscribes to the following newspapers:

 - The Australian;
 - Canberra Times;
 - Australian Financial Review; and
 - The Age.
- b) The cost of newspapers from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 was \$976.31.
3. The Clean Energy Regulator does not have any magazine subscriptions.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 145
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Travel Costs - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

1. For the financial year to date, please detail all travel for Departmental 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 Departmental 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).

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 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 are:

| Travel Category | Expense |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Airfares/Accommodation | \$65,559.82 |
| Travel Allowance | \$8,679.59 |
| Car Hire | \$1,745.80 |
| Taxi Fares | \$11,163.12 |
| Parking, Fares & Tolls | \$266.28 |
| Total | \$87,414.61 |

Please note these figures are GST inclusive and all travel relates to domestic travel. No international travel has been undertaken by Clean Energy Regulator staff.

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.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 146 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Travel Policy – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. 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 this monitored? If the guidelines are not being followed, please explain why.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Answer:

1. 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 the travel reports are regularly evaluated to ensure that the policy is being followed.
2. Lounge memberships have not been provided to any employees since the Clean Energy Regulator was established on 2 April 2012. A number of staff have existing lounge memberships that were part of arrangements entered into prior to the establishment of the Clean Energy Regulator. These arrangements will be reviewed prior to renewing the membership at the time renewal is due.
3. No support or administrative staff accompany Senior Executive Service employees when they travel.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 147 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Legal Costs – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What sum did the CER 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 CER 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 CER 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 each the CER spend on legal services this financial year to date from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.

Answer:

1. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 there was no expenditure on legal services within the Clean Energy Regulator.
2. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 the spend on Australian Government Solicitor legal services was \$232,048.81 (GST Inclusive).
3. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 the spend on legal services from private firms was \$167,364.41 (GST Inclusive).
4. The Clean Energy Regulator has sourced legal services and advice from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 the cost of these services was \$89,557.37 (GST Inclusive).

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 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). In addition, internal legal advice is provided by an in-house Legal Services team. The Legal Services team does not charge for legal advice, nor does it estimate the commercial value of the legal advice it provides.

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| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 148 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Division/Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Education Expenses - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. What are the CER's guidelines on study? Please provide details.
2. For this financial year to date, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and 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 CER.

Answer:

1. The Study Assistance Scheme (SAS), supported by the Study Assistance Policy, encourages staff of the Clean Energy Regulator to undertake formal units of study by providing access to financial assistance and/or study leave provisions during normal hours of duty.

Approval for the SAS is discretionary and is not an automatic entitlement. Approval is dependent on:

- the Clean Energy Regulator's business requirements and available resources
- the relevance of the proposed study to agency operations, and
- an assessment, by the Delegate, that the applicant has the capability to successfully complete the proposed study and continue their work responsibilities.

Courses or programs of study include, but are not limited to, on campus, external and electronic (e-learning) study or a blended approach. Courses may include courses taken at pre-tertiary, vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate levels. A program or course of study by an educational institution or registered training organisation is considered to be eligible under the SAS.

2. Over the 2012-13 financial year, the Clean Energy Regulator will be implementing a learning and development system that allows for the tracking and recording of information on staff education. Currently, the Clean Energy Regulator does not record learning and development data in such a way that would readily allow a detailed answer to be provided to this question. To attempt to provide the requested level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.

The Clean Energy Regulator recognises the value that further formal study provides to enhance professional capability, knowledge, skills and behaviour of employees. The Clean Energy Regulator is committed to investing in the development of its employees through continued study in fields which are relevant to the Clean Energy Regulator's corporate goals.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 149 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Executive Coaching and Leadership Training - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

In relation to executive coaching and/or other leadership 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
- 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 incurred to use the location

Answer:

1. The total expenditure on executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased for the Clean Energy Regulator from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 is \$32,772.80.

2-4. 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 from 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012.

ATTACHMENT A

| Service | Service Provider | One-on-one or group based | Location | No. of employees | Total hours | Cost | Description of costs | Location cost component |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Professional development for Senior Executives | Executive Leadership Australia | Group | The Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla, ACT | 1 x SES2 | 48 | \$1,800 | Complete package | Nil |
| Project management, leadership and communication | Tonkin Corporation | Group | Grace Hotel Sydney | 2 x EL2 | 32 | \$4,397.80 | Complete package | Included in course cost |
| Leading your team | Yellow Edge | Group | Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, ACT | 1 x EL1 1 x APS6 | 15 15 | \$800 | Training and materials | Nil |
| From management to leadership | CPM | Group | Bowral, NSW | 1 x EL1 | 30 | \$4,680 | Complete package | Included in course cost |
| Transforming leadership | APSC | Group | Bowral, NSW | 1 x SES1 | 30 | \$7,895 | Complete package | Included in course cost |
| Executive coaching program | Executive Central | One-on-one | Bowral, NSW | 1 x SES1 | 6 months (part time) | \$13,200 | Complete package | Included in course cost |
| Total | | | | | | \$32,772.80 | | |

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| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 150 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Media Training - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher 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:

The Clean Energy Regulator has not purchased any media training services.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 151
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Paid Parental Leave - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher 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 department/agency is providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme?
3. Please list how many staff and their classification are in receipt of these payments.

Answer:

1. Since the Clean Energy Regulator was established on 2 April 2012, four employees have taken maternity leave. Of the four, two have been entitled to payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator.

3.

| Classification | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| APS4 | 1 |
| EL2 | 1 |
| Total | 2 |

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 152 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Corporate Cars - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

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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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 153
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Taxi Costs - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

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

Answer:

1. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 expenditure on taxis was \$10,717.22 (GST inclusive).

| Division | Description | Expenditure |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Clean Energy Regulator Corporate Costs | Taxi Fares | \$2,839.63 |
| Renewable Energy Target and Carbon Farming Initiative | Taxi Fares | \$6,748.35 |
| Regulatory | Taxi Fares | \$1,129.24 |
| Total | | \$10,717.22 |

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

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 154
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Credit Cards - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

Provide a breakdown for each employment classification that has a corporate credit card.

Please update if there have been any changes since Additional Estimates 2011-12 (February 2012):

1. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused?
2. How is corporate credit card use monitored?
3. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered?
4. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken.
5. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse?

Answer:

| Classification | Number of staff |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| APS4 | 10 |
| APS5 | 9 |
| APS6 | 3 |
| EL1 | 13 |
| EL2 | 10 |
| SES1 | 2 |
| SES2 | 3 |
| Total | 50 |

1. Misuse is handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.
2. Use of credit cards is monitored through monthly reconciliations completed by the card holder which are then approved by the cardholders 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.

3. Please refer to the answer provided at Part 1.
4. There have been no instances of credit card misuse in the Clean Energy Regulator.
5. Staff are provided with training before being issued their credit card so they are aware of the relevant policies and procedures, and ongoing monitoring of credit card bills are incorporated into the monthly acquittal and reconciliation processes for each credit card holder.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 155
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Printing of Documents – Clean Energy
Regulator
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the CER print any hard copies of reports/statements/papers they produce? If yes, please list how many copies, where they are delivered and the cost.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator prints hard copies of a small number of its publications, as follows:

| Name of printed item | Number of copies printed | Where was it delivered | What was the total print cost |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Guide to Carbon Price Liability under the Clean Energy Act 2011 | 900 | Business Outreach Team 5 Farrell Place Canberra ACT 2601 | \$3,855.50 (incl GST) |
| Agent and installer advice factsheet | 600 | Renewable Energy Target Level 13 20 Allara Street Canberra ACT 2601 | \$1,201.20 (incl GST) |

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 156
Program: CER
Agency: CER
Topic: Provision of Equipment - CER
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Fisher asked:

Is electronic equipment (such as ipad, laptop, wireless card, vasco token, blackberry, mobile phone (list type if relevant), thumb drive (not an inclusive list)) provided to CER 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:

The following table lists the electronic equipment provided to Clean Energy Regulator staff and purchase cost of those items:

| Staff Classification | Blackberry | iPad | Laptop | Mobile phones | Wireless cards | Vasco tokens |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| APS4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| APS5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| APS6 | 3 | - | 2 | - | 2 | 15 |
| EL1 | 6 | - | 5 | - | 5 | 53 |
| EL2 | 33 | - | 15 | 3 | 15 | 45 |
| SES1 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| SES2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Contractor | - | - | 14 | - | 14 | 64 |
| Grand Total | 61 | 4 | 43 | 8 | 43 | 195 |
| Total Cost (GST inclusive) | \$42,911 | \$3,380 | \$71,592 | All are existing assets transferred from DCCEE | \$1,677 | \$17,550 |
| Estimated monthly ongoing cost * | \$3,962 | \$200 | N/A | \$40 | \$1,718 | \$107 |

* Monthly ongoing costs include rental only and actual call charges are variable by month and are not included.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 157 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Electricity Purchasing – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Provide an update of the CER's electricity purchasing agreement. Provide details of when this was entered into and the length of the agreement.
2. What were the CER's electricity costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What are the CER's electricity costs for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator is party to the Whole of Government Electricity contract negotiated by the Department of Defence. The supply agreement runs from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015.
1. N/A.
2. From 2 April 2012 to 30 June 2012, the Clean Energy Regulator has incurred costs of \$25,106.03 (GST inclusive) for electricity costs.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

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|-------------------------|--|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 158 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Information for the Australian Greens – CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the CER provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Australian Greens? If yes, please provide the following information:

1. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
2. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each work produced.
3. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were and why it could not be undertaken.
4. How long is spent undertaking work and/or information requests for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification

Answer:

To date, the Clean Energy Regulator has not provided any information and/or undertaken any requests for the Australian Greens.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

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|-------------------------|---|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 159 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Information for the Independents - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

Does the CER provide any information and/or undertake any requests for the Independents? If yes, please provide the following information:

1. How is such work and/or information requests commissioned?
2. What work/information requests have been undertaken? Provide details, including who the work/information was for and a copy of each work produced.
3. Has any such work and/or information requests been unable to proceed? If yes, provide details including what the work and/or information requests were, who they were from, who they were for and why it could not be undertaken.
4. How long is spent undertaken work and/or information requests for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

Answer:

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.

1. Refer to the comment above.
2. Briefings are generally provided orally, covering a range of issues.
3. No.
4. Such briefings are incorporated in the general work of the relevant areas of the Clean Energy Regulator, and not separately identified.

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|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 160 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Shredders - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Fisher asked:

Has the CER purchased any shredders in the last 12 months? 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:

The Clean Energy Regulator has not purchased any shredders since it was established on 2 April 2012.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 161 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Access and Equity Strategy - CER | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Di Natale asked:

1. How does the CER ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all agency activities? How does the CER acknowledge the multicultural character of the Australian society, in terms of the services and programs you provide?
2. How do you measure your success against Access and Equity goals? What evidence do you have that the CER is actively implementing the Government's Access & Equity policy?
3. What changes will you implement over the next financial year to ensure your programs and services are more accessible to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities?
4. What is the CER doing to ensure it has a culturally competent workforce?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator is committed to ensuring access and equity in relation to all aspects of its business on behalf of the Australian Government. The Clean Energy Regulator was established under the *Clean Energy Act 2011* on 2 April 2012.

As a start-up Agency, the Clean Energy Regulator will develop its People Strategy in the 2012-13 financial year. The People Strategy will articulate how the Clean Energy Regulator will implement the Government's Access and Equity Strategy, including acknowledgement of the multicultural character of the Australian society in terms of our services and programs.

2. The Clean Energy Regulator People Strategy will have key performance indicators, including those associated with Access and Equity. These will be reported on annually. To date, the Clean Energy Regulator website has Translating and Interpreting Service access provided through Department of Immigration and Citizenship and National Relay Service to assist people with hearing or sight impairment. The Clean Energy Regulator is aiming to meet the Government's accessibility guidelines by the end of 2012.

3. Please refer to the response to Part One.
4. Please refer to the response to Part One.

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|-------------------------|--|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 162 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Fees or Charges Collected by the Regulator | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Birmingham asked: What fees or charges does the Regulator collect? By each fee or charge, please detail who pays it and, where applicable and whether or not previously collected by another agency, how these fees or charges have changed or might change between 2011-12 and 2012-13?

Answer:

Under the six charges Acts^[1] associated with the *Clean Energy Act 2011*, the Clean Energy Regulator will collect:

- charges which apply to liable entities, when they are issued fixed charge carbon units: \$23 for 2012-13 units, \$24.15 for 2013-14 units, and \$25.40 for 2014-15 units;
- charges for carbon units issued as a result of an auction, which apply to recipients of those units: these charges will be determined by the auction process;
- unit shortfall charges, which apply to liable entities when there is a shortfall in the number of units they have surrendered: these charges are 130 per cent of the fixed charges in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, and the amount to be specified in regulations for the financial years from 2015-16 onwards;
- international unit surrender charge, which applies to liable entities when they surrender an eligible international emissions unit: this charge will be set by regulations and apply only in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18; and
- charges for carbon units issued to provide a 'price cap': these charges will be set by regulations and apply only in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The above charges have not previously been collected by another agency.

^[1] Includes the *Clean Energy (Charges-Excise) Act 2011*, the *Clean Energy (Charges-Customs) Act 2011*, the *Clean Energy (Unit Issue Charge-Auctions) Act 2011*, the *Clean Energy (Unit Issue Charge-Fixed Charge) Act 2011*, the *Clean Energy (Unit Shortfall Charge-General) Act 2011* and the *Clean Energy (International Unit Surrender Charge) Act 2011*.

The *Clean Energy Act 2011*, the *Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011* and *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* also provide for fees for a range of administrative processes, for which regulations are required to be set. However, the Clean Energy Regulator will not be charging those fees in the initial years of operation.

The following legislation sets out the fees and charges under the Renewable Energy Target:

- *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (the RE(E) Act);
- *Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Large-scale Generation Shortfall Charge) Act 2000* (the LCharge Act);
- *Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Small-scale Technology Shortfall Charge) Act 2010* (the SCharge Act); and
- *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001* (the Regulations).

Please see [Attachment A](#) for a list of the fees and charges collected from eligible entities under the Renewable Energy Target. Please note that these fees had previously been collected by the former Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator.

ATTACHMENT A

Fees collected from eligible entities under the RE(E) Act and Regulations

| Fee description | Legislative reference | Who pays this fee? | Amount | Has this fee changed or likely to change between 2011-12 and 2012-13? | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Registration as a Registered person | Subsection 10 (2) (d) of the RE(E) Act and sub regulation 28 (1)(a) of the Regulations | Any individual who wishes to create and register eligible small-scale technology certificates (STCs) Any company who wishes to create and register eligible STCs or large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) | \$20 | No, unless there is a legislative review or policy decision to change this amount | |
| Registration as a person whom can have certificates assigned for creation and registration (these entities are called Agents) | Subsection 23 (2) or 23C (2) of the RE(E) Act and subregulation 28 (1)(a) of the Regulations | Any company who wishes to have individuals or companies assign their right to create and register eligible STCs to the Agent | \$250 | | |
| To apply for provisional accreditation for accreditation of a power station | Subsection 2A (2) (f) of the RE(E) Act and regulation 28 (2) of the Regulations | Any company that wishes to receive provisional accreditation of their power station | \$20 to \$3,000 depending on the proposed install capacity and complexity of the power station | | |
| To apply for accreditation for accreditation of a power station | Subsection 13 (2) (e) of the RE(E) Act and regulation 28 (2) of the Regulations | Any company that wishes to have their renewable station accredited to create and register LGCs | \$20 to \$3,000 depending on the installed capacity and complexity of the power station | | |
| Registration of STCs | Subsection 26 (3A) of the RE(E) Act and subregulation (3)(b) of the Regulations | Any registered person that obtains registration of STCs from solar water heater installations | \$0.08 per STC registered | | |
| | Subsection 26 (3A) of the RE(E) Act and subregulation (3)(b) of the Regulations | Any registered person that obtains registration of STCs from small generation units. This includes small wind, hydro and photovoltaic systems. | \$0.08 per STC registered | | Yes, this amount applies to STCs created before 16 October 2011 |
| | Subsection 26 (3A) of the RE(E) Act and subregulation (3)(a) of the Regulations | | \$0.47 per STC registered | | Yes, this amount applies to STCs created on or after 17 October 2011 |

| Fee description | Legislative reference | Who pays this fee? | Amount | Has this fee changed or likely to change between 2011-12 and 2012-13? |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| Registration of LGCs | Subsection 26 (3A) of RE(E) Act and subregulation (3)(b) of the Regulations Act | Any registered person that obtains registration of LGCs from eligible renewable energy generation above the power stations accredited baseline | \$0.08 per LGC registered | No, unless the legislative review or policy decide to change this amount |
| Refund of fees | Section 28 (2) <i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i> | The Commonwealth refunds fees that are identified as overpayments made to the Commonwealth | | |

Fees and charges collected from liable entities under the RE(E) Act, LCharge Act, SCharge Act and Regulations

| Fee description | Legislative reference | Who pays this fee or charge? | Amount | Has this fee changed or likely to change between 2011-12 and 2012-13? |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Surrender of STCs and LGCs | Subsection 45E (1) of the RE(E) Act and subregulation 28(4) of the Regulations | This fee is paid by any liable entity, someone who makes relevant acquisitions of electricity and is liable under the RE(E) Act, who surrenders STCs and LGCs to meet their obligations | \$0.08 per STC and LGC surrendered | No, unless the legislative review or policy decide to change this amount |
| Large-scale shortfall charge (LGSC) | Subdivision B of Division 1 of the RE(E) Act and the LCharge Act | This charge is paid by any liable entity that has a LGC shortfall greater than 10% of their total LGC liability for the compliance year | \$65 per LGC not surrendered for the 2010 and future compliance years \$40 per LGC not surrendered for the 2001 – 2009 compliance years | |
| Small-scale shortfall charge (STSC) | Subdivision B of Division 2 of the RE(E) Act and the SCharge Act | This charge is paid by any liable entity that has a STC shortfall for an individual quarter surrender period | \$65 per STC not surrendered for the 2011 and future quarters | |

| Fee description | Legislative reference | Who pays this fee or charge? | Amount | Has this fee changed or likely to change between 2011-12 and 2012-13? |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Interest charge | Section 70 of the RE(E) Act | This charge is paid by any liable entity that does not pay the LGSC or STSC with the lodgement of the Energy Acquisition Statement (EAS) on 14 February | Daily interest rate as published on the Australian Taxation Office's website | |
| Penalty charge | Part 9 of the RE(E) Act and LCharge Act and SCharge Act | This charge is paid by any liable entity that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to lodge an EAS or the LGSC/STSC • Provides false or misleading EAS • Arranges to avoid the LGSC/STSC | 2 times the amount LGSC/STSC | |
| Refund of LGSC | Part 8 of the RE(E) Act | The Commonwealth refunds LGSC paid by the liable entity if within 3 years they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquit the current LGC liability • Surrender additional LGCs to acquit the LGSC paid | LGSC paid less applicable Administration Fee | |
| Administration Fee | Section 98 of the RE(E) Act and regulation 5 of the Regulations | Any liable entity that has paid the LGSC and within 3 years of paying the LGSC redeems the LGSC by surrenders additional LGCs to acquit the LGSC | If the LGSC is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than \$1,000 — 2% • at least \$1,000 but less than \$5,000 — 1.5%; or • at least \$5,000 but less than \$15,000 — 1%; or • \$15,000 or more — 0.5%. | |
| Refund of overpaid amounts | Section 50 of the RE(E) Act | The Commonwealth refunds any LGSC, STSC, interest charge or penalty charge that are identified as over payments through assessment amendments | | |

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 163 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Renewable Energy Certificates | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), expressed both as a number and a percentage, have been invalidated in financial year 2011/12 to date?
2. On what grounds were they invalidated?
3. How many companies have been involved and what action has been taken against them?
4. What regulatory or inspection measures have been taken by the Regulator regarding invalid RECs?
5. What data does the Regulator have on any compliance problems it has uncovered or identified? What steps are being taken to ensure greater compliance?
6. Has any rectification work been required to be undertaken?

Answer:

1. During the 2011/12 financial year 2,747,479 (or 4.7 per cent) Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) were invalidated.
2. RECs are invalidated for a variety of reasons many of which are administrative errors rather than attempts to deceive the Regulator:
 - Administrative errors made by participants (Registered Persons) when creating their certificates.
 - At the request of the agent or home-owner due to incorrect information input into the REC Registry.
 - Incomplete information and/or typographical errors found by the Clean Energy Regulator in the REC Registry.
 - Incorrect compliance paperwork supplied to the Clean Energy Regulator.

- Home-owner receiving pre-approval for the following Federal Government rebates for their solar panel installation. Under the Act they cannot receive solar credits if they have pre-approval for the following:
 - Solar Homes and Communities Plan;
 - Renewable Remote Power Generation;
 - National Solar Schools Program; or
 - Photovoltaic Rebate Program.
 - Duplicate serial number/product number.
 - Duplicate address – more than one system is installed at a single address and insufficient details have been provided to distinguish one system or address from the others.
 - Incorrect out-of-pocket expense entered into the REC Registry.
 - Incorrect Clean Energy Council (CEC) accreditation number for the installer.
 - The installer's name not matching the CEC accreditation list.
 - Non-approved CEC panel or inverter type.
 - Systems not been completely installed and/or not installed according to CEC guidelines.
 - Systems are found to be second hand.
 - Over-creation of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs).
 - LGCs created under the wrong fuel source.
 - LGCs created in the wrong time-frame (for example the wrong month).
 - Electricity data adjustment. In this case meter data that was sent to the Clean Energy Regulator to support LGC creations was adjusted which resulted in the under/over-creation of LGCs.
3. 1,487 Registered Persons had certificates invalidated in financial year 2011/12. These Registered Persons includes individual home owners, companies, trusts, state government departments and other types of legal entities. The action taken against these Registered Persons was to invalidate their certificates which meant their certificates could not be listed for sale in the Small-scale Technology Certificate (STC) market, or for transfer in the STC Clearing House.
4. The Clean Energy Regulator has a number of regulatory measures to ensure Registered Persons are creating certificates correctly, including:
- Continuous education for stakeholders regarding the requirements of the Renewable Energy Target legislation via emails, phone calls and meetings.

- The Clean Energy Regulator recently conducted workshops for Agents and Installers in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane in May 2012. The workshops provided guidance on administration, inspections and compliance issues.
 - The Clean Energy Regulator has a number of other regulatory measures including Enforceable Undertakings, suspension of Registry accounts, civil and criminal prosecution.
5. The Clean Energy Regulator regularly publishes information on its compliance activities on its website (ret.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au). The number of compliance activities in financial year 2011/12 is given below:

| Activity | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Site visits | 7 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Pre-validation checks | 5,540 | 5,814 | 10,928 | 5,902 | 6,138 | 6,028 | 7,571 | 5,996 | 7,087 | 4,418 | 6,879 | 6,450 |
| Outreach visits | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Warrants executed | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Compliance visits | 0 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Enforceable undertakings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Site visits include physical visits to installation sites and power stations, but also include physical checks of sites where installations are viewed from the street to confirm that an installation has occurred.

Pre-validation checks include phone verification, physical inspections and the use of other technology.

Outreach visits to stakeholders that are not in response to a specific compliance issue and can be instigated either by the Clean Energy Regulator or at the request of a stakeholder.

Warrants executed refers to the execution of monitoring warrants under section 125 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.

Compliance visits refers to visits to stakeholders in relation to specific compliance issues.

6. Once a certificate has been invalidated or surrendered to the Clean Energy Regulator under an Enforceable Undertaking the certificates cannot be listed for sale in the STC market, or for transfer in the STC Clearing House so no benefit is obtained and no further rectification work is usually required.

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

Budget Estimates 2012-13, 21 May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Outcome: | 1 | Question No: | 164 |
| Program: | CER | | |
| Agency: | CER | | |
| Topic: | Renewable Energy Target | | |
| Hansard Page EC: | Written | | |

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs) were created, and validated, for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12? How many STCs are expected or forecast to be created, and validated, for each quarter of 2012-13?
2. How many STCs were surrendered by RET liable entities for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12? How many STCs are expected or forecast to be surrendered by RET liable entities for each quarter of 2012-13?
3. For each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12, how many STCs were offered for sale through the STC Clearing House (that is, how many STCs joined the STC Clearing House)? How many STCs are expected or forecast to be offered for sale through the STC Clearing House for each quarter of 2012-13?
4. At a point in time at the end of each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12, how many STCs were on offer through the STC Clearing House (that is, how many STCs in the STC Clearing House in total)? How many STCs are expected or forecast to be on offer through the STC Clearing House at the end of each quarter of 2012-13?
5. For each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12, how many STCs were sold or transferred through the STC Clearing House and how many STCs were withdrawn for sale from the STC Clearing House? How many STCs are expected or forecast to be sold or transferred through the STC Clearing House for each quarter of 2012-13 and how many are expected or forecast to be withdrawn for sale from the STC Clearing House?
6. What monitoring is undertaken by the Regulator of spot prices, averaged or otherwise, for STCs outside of the STC Clearing House? What trends and notable occurrences have been observed, whether by the Clean Energy Regulator or the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator, in 2010-11 and 2011-12 in relation to spot prices for STCs outside of the STC Clearing House?

Answer:

1. From 1 January 2011, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) were reclassified into two certificate types: Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) and Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs). All small-scale technologies systems installed from 1 January 2011 will be eligible to create STCs.

Please see below for the number of STCs that were created, and validated, for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12 as at 24 June 2012.

| | Q1 2011 | Q2 2011 | Q3 2011 | Q4 2011 | Q1 2012 | Q2 2012 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| STCs Created | 10,758,245 | 20,721,685 | 14,651,574 | 10,076,139 | 7,778,142 | 10,795,623 |
| STCs Passed validation | 7,694,781 | 17,348,800 | 15,440,368 | 11,159,374 | 7,085,300 | 10,695,739 |

The Clean Energy Regulator does not provide forecasting on the number of STCs to be created, and validated, for each quarter of 2012-13. In accordance with section 40B of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (the Act), the Clean Energy Regulator must publish an estimate of the Small-scale Technology Percentages for 2013 and 2014 by 31 March 2012. An estimate published under section 40B does not bind the Regulator, the Commonwealth or any other person.

The non-binding Small-scale Technology Percentage (STP) under section 40B of the Act for:

- 2013 is 7.94 per cent (equivalent to 15.07 million Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs) as a proportion of total estimated liable electricity for the 2013 calendar year); and
- 2014 is 6.10 per cent (equivalent to 11.81 million STCs as a proportion of total estimated liable electricity for the 2014 calendar year).

The above 2013 and 2014 non-binding STP estimates are based on the modelling prepared for the published 2012 STP and do not include any possible surplus or deficit in small-scale technology certificates for 2012. The Clean Energy Regulator will take into account any surplus or deficit from 2012 when preparing the 2013 binding STP.

Clean Energy Regulator used the information in the independent consultant reports to estimate the number of STCs that are likely to be created in the future. For more information visit the following page: ret.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/About-the-Schemes/Administration/Reports/reports.

2. Please see below for the number of STCs that were surrendered by RET liable entities for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12 as at 24 June 2012.

| | 2011 Q1 | 2011 Q2 | 2011 Q3 | 2011 Q4 | 2012 Q1 | 2012 Q2 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Number of STCs Surrendered by Quarter | 8,763,738 | 5,558,554 | 5,706,519 | 8,163,409 | 14,712,856 | 28,121 |

As stated in the answer to Question 1, the Clean Energy Regulator does not provide forecasting on the number of STCs to be created, validate or surrendered on a quarterly basis. In accordance with section 40B of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (the Act), the Clean Energy Regulator must publish an estimate of the Small-scale Technology Percentages for 2013 and 2014 by 31 March 2012. An estimate published under section 40B does not bind the Regulator, the Commonwealth or any other person.

3. Please see below for the number of STCs that were offered for sale through the STC Clearing House (that is, how many STCs joined the STC Clearing House) for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12 as at 24 June 2012.

| | Q1 2011 | Q2 2011 | Q3 2011 | Q4 2011 | Q1 2012 | Q2 2012 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| STC offered for sale through the Clearing House each Quarter | 1,379,244 | 4,073,780 | 5,612,552 | 2,826,057 | 1,368,328 | 1,486,744 |

Please refer to Question 1 regarding forecasting on the number of STCs to be created, validated or surrendered on a quarterly basis in 2012-13.

4. Please see below for the number of STCs that were on offer through the STC Clearing House (that is, how many STCs in the STC Clearing House in total) for each quarter of 2010-11 and 2011-12 as at 24 June 2012.

| | Q1 2011 | Q2 2011 | Q3 2011 | Q4 2011 | Q1 2012 | Q2 2012 |
|--|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| STC Clearing House - Balance at end of each quarter | 797,621 | 2,952,633 | 6,289,647 | 7,080,119 | 6,569,616 | 6,434,384 |

Please refer to Question 1 regarding forecasting on the number of STCs on a quarterly basis in 2012-13.

5. Please see below for the number of STCs that were sold or transferred through the STC Clearing House and how many STCs were withdrawn for sale from the STC Clearing House as at 24 June 2012.

| | Q1 2011 | Q2 2011 | Q3 2011 | Q4 2011 | Q1 2012 | Q2 2012 |
|--|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| The Number of STCs sold through the Clearing House | 7 | 117,498 | 8,068 | 8,069 | 4,842 | 0 |
| The Number of STCs transferred through the Clearing House | 19,175 | 167,339 | 614,128 | 587,642 | 257,035 | 307,175 |
| The Number of STCs Withdrawn through the Clearing House | 557,441 | 1,522,830 | 1,648,261 | 1,407,654 | 1,588,460 | 1,293,547 |

Please refer to Question 1 regarding forecasting on the number of STCs on a quarterly basis in 2012-13.

6. The Clean Energy Regulator tracks the spot market price on a weekly basis. The Regulator notes that from January 2011 – 30 June 2011 the price ranged from a high of \$39.70 to a low of \$20.05. From 1 July 2011, the price rose from \$20.20 to trade at a peak of \$33.05 in December 2011 and has since drifted to end 30 June 2012 at \$27.60.