

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates 2009
26 February 2009

Question: AR-21
Topic: ZeroGen
Proof Hansard Page: E68

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY—I will move on now to clean coal technology. In relation to the again revised ZeroGen Project in Queensland, what would the department estimate the commercial gap to be in terms of funding?

Mr Hartwell—That depends possibly on the parameters of the project. The ZeroGen project has gone through many configurations and, as has been reported at previous estimates, there have been discussions with ZeroGen proponents. The level of ‘non-commerciality’, if you wish to put it that way, is something that would really depend on, as I say, the size of the project, the types of technologies perhaps being pursued and a whole range of other factors.

Senator BUSHBY—Presumably you have had discussions with ZeroGen about the commercial gap.

Mr Hartwell—There have been discussions about a number of various proposals that the ZeroGen consortium have put forward over recent years, yes.

Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to tell the committee when those conversations occurred?

Mr Hartwell—I cannot remember them all specifically. But, as I have mentioned, there have been, if you like, a number of proposals put forward in relation to—

Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to take on notice to provide the dates of any meetings you have had?

Mr Hartwell—Yes, we can look at finding when those discussions were.

Answer:

There have been a number of discussions between officers of the Department and representatives of ZeroGen in both formal and informal settings. While it is not possible to provide dates for every interaction, the Department can confirm organised meetings with representatives of ZeroGen on the following dates:

27 February 2008
12 August 2008
22 October 2008
18 November 2008
13 March 2009