

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

2 June 2009

Question: BR-22

Topic: Energy White Paper

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Scott Ludlam asked:

Regarding the Government's Energy White paper,

- a. What are the fastest growing energy sources in the Australian energy sector today, in terms of annual growth?
- b. Who is representing the wind energy sector on the high level consultative committee or other mechanism in the Energy White Paper process?
- c. Who is representing the solar energy sector?
- d. Who is representing the geothermal energy sector?
- e. Who is representing the biomass energy sector?
- f. Who is representing the wave and tidal energy sectors?
- g. Who is representing the energy efficiency sector?

Answer:

a. According to ABARE, wind power electricity generation increased 283% (or 17PJ) in 2006-07. This was the largest increase of a single resource by percentage.

The renewable energy sources which have experienced the greatest growth under the MRET are wind energy and solar hot water. In 2007, electricity generation from wind was 2,330 gigawatt hours higher than in 1997.

There is clearly very large percentage increase in wind power, albeit from a small base.

Natural Gas electricity generation increased by 88PJ (or 8%) in 2006-07. This was the largest increase of a single resource by electricity generation volume. The growth is seen as relatively stable in comparison to the percentage growth of wind power.

b-f. The Energy White paper Secretariat is consulting broadly across all levels of government, energy related industries, international energy fora, science and technology organisations, relevant non government organisations, consumer advocacy groups and end users in the development of the Energy White Paper.

Individuals have been appointed to a High Level Consultative committee based on their knowledge and experience across a broad range of private sector (including energy and resources) and/or public policy areas. The top level committees on the Energy White Paper can be found on the Department's website at <http://ret.gov.au>.