

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

Question: **BR37**
Topic: **Mining in Gunnedah**
Proof Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. Does the Department have any knowledge of the Chinese company Shenhua or their subsidiaries planning to build power stations in areas outside the Hunter Valley in other areas of regional NSW?
2. Are there any plans that the Department is aware of to build power stations close to the mining operations near Gunnedah to try and overcome the transport deficiencies from mine to port?

Answer:

1. The Department receives advice from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) on proposed major electricity projects 30 MW and greater in size and also from Treasury concerning proposed foreign investment in electricity projects. On the basis of this advice, the Department is not aware of any proposals by Shenhua or its subsidiaries to build power stations in NSW.
2. Further to above response, on the basis of advice provided by ABARE on proposed major electricity projects, the Department is not aware of any plans to a build power station near Gunnedah. Nor is it aware of any plans for a power station near Gunnedah as part of mining project.