

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Senate Estimates  
20 October 2010

**Question:** SR18  
**Topic:** Nuclear Power Plants – OECD Countries  
**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senators Faulkner and Williams asked:**

**Senator Carr**—I appreciate your interest in these matters, Senator Williams. Matters that go to energy are another committee and another department's responsibility. That is RET's responsibility. This is not a facility for the production of nuclear power; it performs a whole range of functions other than that.

**Senator FAULKNER**—But that is not really fair, is it, Senator Carr, because, after all, Senator Williams has been given this series of questions by someone to ask. Even though they are not particularly relevant, I think you have to be fair to him and let him ask them. I would just say through you to Senator Williams that he does not actually have to ask them. He can always say no.

**CHAIR**—That may or may not be helpful to Senator Williams, but he has the call.

**Senator WILLIAMS**—Exactly, I have the right to ask the questions.

**Senator FAULKNER**—It was meant to be helpful, Chair.

**CHAIR**—I do not want to continue this conversation across the table.

**Senator FAULKNER**—I can assure you I was trying to be helpful.

**Senator WILLIAMS**—Thanks for your input. How long are you going to be here for, Senator Faulkner?

**Senator FAULKNER**—I have been here since the committee commenced—if you mean today.

**Senator WILLIAMS**—Yes, today. You said you were not going to be here for long.

**Senator FAULKNER**—Well, if you keep asking questions like this I will leave, I promise you.

**CHAIR**—We seem to have spent a lot of the morning asking each other questions or answering questions.

**Senator WILLIAMS**—Anyway, we agree there are 430-odd nuclear power plants in the world. Of that number, does anyone know how many are in OECD countries?

**Dr Storr**—We will take it on notice.

**Senator Carr**—We will be here forever. Sorry, I think you should go down to talk to RET and they will be more than happy to help you with these sorts of questions.

**Answer:**

According to the Nuclear Energy Agency publication, *Nuclear Energy Data 2010*, there are currently 340 nuclear power plants connected to the grid in the OECD. The break down includes: OECD America - 123, OECD Europe - 143, and OECD Pacific - 74.