

**Senate Select Committee on Fuel and Energy**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Department of Climate Change – 26 June 2009**

**Question:** (Senator Bushby)

**Senator BUSHBY**—Mr Comley, you mentioned that there have been assessments of the impact of the renewable energy targets on energy security but they have been further refined. Have those assessments been made public?

**Mr Comley**—In a sense a part of the assessments in the Treasury modelling report was how the energy market would respond to those things. I could take on notice any other publicly available assessments. I am just being cautious because it is another department that handles this.

**Senator BUSHBY**—I understand. But you mentioned that there were assessments that looked at the issue of energy security and the impact of the RET. Is that different to the modelling? I see you nodding. It is different to the modelling itself, so there are separate assessments that have been conducted as well. Have they been made public?

**Mr Comley**—I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator BUSHBY**—Are you aware of whether they have been provided to the minister?

**Mr Comley**—I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator BUSHBY**—You are not aware?

**Mr Comley**—I am just trying to remember the time period we are talking about. There is a national security assessment and I am trying to recall where that was up to.

**Senator BUSHBY**—Can I indicate as well that I would like those to be tabled for this committee's assessment as well. I imagine you will take that on notice, but we would like to see that.

**Mr Comley**—I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The National Energy Security Assessment (NESA) provided an assessment of energy security issues. The assessment considered how key strategic energy issues, including climate change policies such as the Renewable Energy Target, could affect energy adequacy, reliability and affordability.

The NESA was released on 26 March 2009 by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP. Minister Ferguson's media release and the NESA itself are available on the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism website, <http://www.ret.gov.au>.