

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 98

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 7

Programme: Emissions Reduction Fund Taskforce

Topic: Tracking Progress Report

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Was the Department involved in the Climate Institute's tracking progress report? What is the importance of the finding that over 80 percent of the largest energy users considered the carbon price significant to their decisions on energy efficiency? What did that report show about the transformation of our economy over the period 2007-2013?

Answer:

The July 2013 report *Tracking Progress Towards a Low Carbon Economy* was prepared by ClimateWorks Australia.

The former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency contributed \$150,000 to the report via the Climate Change Authority, with whom ClimateWorks Australia had a contractual arrangement. The Department was also consulted in the process of drafting of the report.

The report found that a range of factors contributed to decisions made by companies on energy efficiency, including energy price rises, the Energy Efficiency Opportunities program and the carbon price. In the in-depth interviews ClimateWorks Australia undertook with energy or environmental managers as part of the report, the most significant influencing factor mentioned by companies was energy price rises.

The report did not make specific observations about the transformation of Australia's economy over the period 2007-2013. The report did find that between 2002-03 and 2010-11 Australia's emissions remained stable while Australia's economy grew strongly.