

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 22 MARCH 2021

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Portfolio QoN No.	Department /Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Transcript Page
1	SQ21-000004	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Jenny McAllister	Consultation on long-term strategy	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Moving away from the modelling question, in relation to the long-term strategy, are you consulting with anyone in the scientific community? Ms Evans: I'm not sure how to answer that question. We consult widely, and including with people from all parts of the economy. If you think of the long-term low emissions technology strategy as being the cornerstone of what we're working on, we had a range of different inputs into that, including from the scientific community. But I'm not sure if that's what you're getting at. Senator McALLISTER: I'm thinking about a process of consultation where you take the specific ideas that you are intending to put into your strategy—you might have some options; you might have a clear final view—and you ask stakeholders what they think of them. That's the kind of consultation I thinking of. So you're building a strategy. It's due well before November. My question is: are you talking to anyone outside of government about it, and, in particular in this instance, anyone in the scientific community? Ms Evans: We've been talking with many stakeholders outside of government through the processes of developing the pieces of the long-term strategy. The most significant piece of that strategy is the technology road map, which had a very extensive consultation process, which I think we've outlined before, but I can take on notice to provide you with the detail of the very extensive consultations that happened through that process. There are similar consultations going, and I know Senator Rice will ask questions later about the future fuels element of the long-term strategy as well.</p>	107
2	SQ21-000010	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Matthew Canavan	Emissions reductions from land use changes	<p>Senator CANAVAN: I only have limited time, though, thanks to the opposition. So, if we didn't have the emissions reductions from land use changes, we would not have met our Kyoto targets? Ms Evans: Senator, I'm sorry to keep going back to it, but the Kyoto target includes land use change, so I can't answer the question of what would have happened if it weren't in, because it was both in the baseline and in the contributions to the way things were reduced. So I'd have to take it on notice to go back, and I think it's not even possible to say what our Kyoto target would have been if we weren't including the land use change sector. Senator CANAVAN: Well, I'm assuming ceteris paribus: everything else is equal except for that one change. Ms Evans: But then we wouldn't know what the target itself was, because the target is— Senator CANAVAN: No, that's what 'everything else equal' means. If you just exclude the emissions we saved by stopping farmers from cutting down trees, we would not have met Kyoto. Ms Evans: Senator, you're doing maths off a table</p>	117-118

					<p>which, as I've confirmed, is correct, but the way that our Kyoto Protocol target is defined includes land use change in the base and in the articulation of the target, so I'm not able to tell you whether or not we would have met a target that didn't include a sector that was inherently part of setting the target in the first place. Senator CANAVAN: It seems you're a little bit sensitive about it. How much land did we take out of use, so to speak? How much land was converted to forestry— Ms Evans: I think we might have to take that on notice. Senator CANAVAN: I think it's in the report. It's three million hectares. Ms Evans: Then it's in the published report. Senator CANAVAN: On page 54, it says: Over the decade 2008-2018, the area of land under forest in Australia has increased by around 3 million hectares ... Does that accord with your numbers? Ms Evans: If you're reading from our report then it would. Is Mr Sturgiss here? Senator CANAVAN: It is very complicated. I don't pretend to understand all of how this is calculated. It's all very confusing. Ms Evans: Well, we have very robust ways of calculating all these contributions. Senator CANAVAN: I think there might be someone who has more expertise and might be able to answer. CHAIR: This will have to be the last question, thanks, Senator Canavan. Mr Sturgiss: You were talking about page 54? Senator CANAVAN: I will just check. Yes, page 54. Mr Sturgiss: And your question was? Senator CANAVAN: How much land area has been changed in use to get the reduction in emissions under the land use category? The sentence there says that, over that decade, there's three million hectares more forest. Mr Sturgiss: Yes. Senator CANAVAN: Is that all the land that has changed, or are there other things that aren't included? I know there are a lot of different categories that can qualify. Is that the total amount? Mr Sturgiss: Since the beginning of our records—so from 1972, when we were able to assess changes in forest cover from the Landsat satellite imagery series—I believe about 17 million hectares of land has been converted from forest to another use, and that's mostly agricultural uses in that period. Senator CANAVAN: That's from 1972? Mr Sturgiss: From 1972 until now. Senator CANAVAN: What about over the Kyoto period? What's happened over that period? Mr Sturgiss: I don't have the precise number there, but it's a fraction of it. Senator CANAVAN: Okay, please take that on notice. That figure there is only for that decade. That's why I was asking how much it's contributed to the Kyoto. CHAIR: Sorry, Senator Canavan. We're going to pull it up there. Senator CANAVAN: Can I just ask officially: can we take it on notice? Mr Sturgiss: Yes.</p>	
3	SQ21-000005	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Climate Targets Panel report	<p>Senator WATERS: In a Climate Targets Panel report prepared by Will Steffen, Lesley Hughes, Malte Meinshausen and John Hewson—which I'm sure you saw last month—they used that 0.97 per cent fair share and found that, for Australia to stay within that fair share of our global carbon budget, we'd need to reduce our emissions by 50 per cent by 2030—based on 2005 levels—and reach net zero by 2045. That's to track to two degrees. If we wanted to track to 1½ degrees, they found that we'd need to reduce our emissions by 74 per cent by 2030 and reach net zero by 2035. Do you dispute their findings? Ms Evans:</p>	111

					<p>Their findings are of that panel. I am not in a position to offer an opinion on them. Senator WATERS: Has the department done any analysis of those calculations? Ms Evans: We have not taken that particular report and done any analysis of their conclusions, no. Senator WATERS: Have you read the report? Ms Evans: We've had— Ms Bennett: People in the department have read the report. Senator WATERS: Has the minister been briefed on the report? Ms Bennett: I would need to take that on notice. Senator WATERS: You don't know that already? Ms Evans: We would have to check. We brief on a lot of reports, and we would need to double-check whether that particular one had a specific briefing.</p>	
4	SQ21-000011	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Impact on climate of carbon dioxide from human activity	<p>Senator ROBERTS: No-one has been able to answer this question. I've asked it of many, many people, including ministers. To have sound policy we need to know the relationship between carbon dioxide from human activity and the impact on climate. We need to have the specified, quantified impacts. That's essential for policy. No-one's been able to give it to me. That is essential for monitoring the effectiveness of your policy. You can't tell me, without that, whether or not your policies are effective. Thirdly, it's necessary to assess the cost-benefit of any policies and the economic destruction or economic benefits of any policies, but no-one can answer that fundamental policy, as you've shown right now. You can't answer it either. Mr Sullivan: Can I reframe? Mr Fredericks: Senator, to assist, in fairness to you, we might have a stab at answering that question on notice, because I think it deserves an opportunity to reflect on what you've said and answer on notice. We'll take it on notice, thanks. Senator ROBERTS: I'd appreciate that, but let me be specific on what I'm after. I want the specific location within a report, journal, publication, title, the specific location within that of the data and within a framework that proves causation of human carbon dioxide affecting climate. I want to know how much carbon dioxide from human activity has so much effect. What is the effect? I want it measured and I want it specified and quantified. Then I want to understand what you're doing and why you are doing it related to that; what measures you're using to assess the cost-benefit, and then what measures you're using to track your effectiveness. Because you're spending billions of dollars—that's the first thing—and I believe you're destroying the economy. Energy is the number one thing for impacting competitiveness. It's the number one thing for driving human progress, and we have reversed the human progress of the last 170 years. CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Roberts. I think you've expressed that very clearly. Mr Fredericks: We'll take that on notice.</p>	123
5	SQ21-000013	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Costing on gas plants on the UNGI short list	<p>Senator WATERS: I wonder if the department would be in a position to respond to that. Is there a costing on the three gas plants on the UNGI short list? Ms Evans: Unfortunately, the officials who would respond to that were outcome 3, so they're not here, but we can take it on notice.</p>	132

6	SQ21-000001	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Vales Point grant	<p>Senator WATERS: Could you confirm formally that the Vales Point grant is not proceeding and it is no longer on the UNGI short list? Ms Parry: It does remain on the UNGI short list, but the short list does not disappear. We are not proceeding with the grant at this time. The grant guidelines have closed. Delta has publicly declared, and to the department, its intent to not proceed with the grant. Senator WATERS: So what happens to the money now? Ms Parry: I would like to take that on notice. Mr Sullivan: That money is now unexpended. It is a decision for— Senator WATERS: It is now? Mr Sullivan: That money hasn't been spent. It was for a specific purpose. Normally it could be returned to consolidated revenue or it could be used for other purposes if the government decides to repurpose it through a budget process. But there are no plans from us at the moment to repurpose that for anything. It was a specific allocation of up to \$8.7 million for the purposes of Vales. I will complete the timeline of the notification from Delta in late December. As you would imagine, we had a shutdown at that point of time. I think in mid-January we also sought to confirm with Vales that they had no intention of proceeding with it. Senator WATERS: Mid-January? Mr Sullivan: Yes. You asked why the department wouldn't have broadcast that significant decision. That is probably a matter for the minister and the government. We did keep communication channels open with Delta to try and get an understanding of where that happened, given the long lead time, as you said, going back to January 2019. Senator WATERS: Senator, do you have any information on why the minister didn't tell the public that almost \$9 million wasn't going to be applied for by the donor? Senator Seselja: I don't have anything specific on that in my brief, so I can follow up to get some further information.</p>	101
7	SQ21-000008	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Janet Rice	Electric vehicles charged using renewable energy	<p>Senator RICE: So you don't have the data? So you don't know what percentage of current electric vehicle owners do charge using renewable energy sources? Ms Maguire: My understanding is we didn't have that data, no. Senator RICE: Did you attempt to find that out before you did the comparison? Ms Maguire: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	115
8	SQ21-000007	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Janet Rice	Vehicle comparisons	<p>Senator RICE: Let's go to the \$747. That comes from comparing a Renault Kangoo Compact, which is an internal combustion engine car, with a Renault Kangoo Maxi, a battery electric vehicle. Are these comparable vehicles? Ms Maguire: I have seen, in the media, a question about whether they are the best vehicles to compare. We were focused exclusively on comparing petrol vehicles, and so they were comparative in that sense. The Renault vehicle of comparable size has a diesel engine. Senator RICE: So what's the problem with comparing it with the diesel vehicle? There are a lot of diesel vehicles in Australia. Ms Maguire: Well, just for the purposes of our calculations, we were being consistent and using petrol. But we could compare it with diesel, and we have done a back-of-the-envelope calculation, and it still shows that it would be upwards of \$500 a tonne. Senator RICE: So you have actually done the comparison with the equivalent diesel Kangoo Maxi?</p>	114

					<p>Ms Maguire: Yes. When there was commentary about that, we had a look at them and compared it with the diesel one but it was still giving us figures over \$500 a tonne. Senator RICE: Can you forward me that comparison, please? Ms Maguire: Sure. Senator RICE: Certainly a Renault spokesperson said you shouldn't be comparing the Kangoo Maxi with the Compact version because the Maxi is much bigger than the Compact. What was the process for selecting vehicle types to compare, to model in the cost walk-through? Ms Maguire: We got the information from the Green Vehicle Guide. Senator RICE: Did you do all of the vehicles in the Green Vehicle Guide, then? How did you choose which vehicles? Ms Maguire: We made a judgement about comparing like for like vehicles and drew it all from publicly available information. Senator RICE: What other vehicle types did you model? Ms Maguire: I haven't—well, except what's outlined in the table on page 31. Senator RICE: Were there any that aren't in the table that you also modelled? Ms Maguire: I would have to take that on notice, but I don't think so. I think we published what we modelled.</p>	
9	SQ21-000009	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Matthew Canavan	Countries that have met their obligations under the Kyoto Agreement	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Thank you, Chair. I will be very quick. Do we keep tabs on whether other countries have met their obligations under the Kyoto Agreement? Ms Evans: Yes, generally we keep an eye on how everybody else who has commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and other things is tracking. Senator CANAVAN: Maybe you could take it on notice to give me the list of countries and whether they've met their targets or not. But, just for the record—if you've got it in front of you—have Canada, Japan and New Zealand? Just go with those three. Have they met their Kyoto targets? Ms Munro: I'm just double-checking. I don't think I have that with me. Senator CANAVAN: Okay. Take it on notice,</p>	116
10	SQ21-000003	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Jenny McAllister	Tender for CGE modelling	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Have you commissioned any CGE modelling at the moment, relevant to the strategy? I'm asking about modelling that would use economic data to look at how the economy might react to policies. Ms Evans: Yes, we are looking at a range of things, and that would include CGE modelling. Senator McALLISTER: Is that being done internally or externally? Ms Evans: It's being done within the department. Senator McALLISTER: So there is a CGE capability within your department? Ms Evans: Yes, we're developing that. Senator McALLISTER: Have you had to engage any external consultants to help you develop that capacity? Ms Evans: Yes, we are looking at using external consultants to support our internal work. Senator McALLISTER: Have you put a tender out to engage those consultants yet? Ms Evans: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	106
11	SQ21-000002	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Jenny McAllister	Carbon border adjustment mechanism	<p>Senator McALLISTER: We will see you all again at outcome 3! I am interested in how the department is responding to the international discussion about a carbon border adjustment mechanism. How long has the department been aware of ideas around such a mechanism? Ms Evans: I am just waiting for my colleague Ms Munro to reach the table. The concept of border adjustment mechanisms has been a part of the international conversation for quite a while. Certainly I remember it probably about a year ago. I have been asked about it before. They've really been around for a long time. I think the</p>	103

					<p>practicalities and the difficulties of how to implement them have also been part of that conversation as well. So I don't know that I can put an exact date on when they've come up. Certainly they've been around for a long time. We could probably take on notice to advise when we were aware of the more recent developments in the EU.</p>	
12	SQ21-000006	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Janet Rice	Future fuels discussion paper	<p>Senator RICE: I want to ask about the future fuels discussion paper/absence of an electric vehicle strategy. We had the announcement of a national electric vehicle strategy by the Prime Minister. We were meant to have it in February 2019, and then the release of the strategy was delayed mid-2020 and then to late last year. Finally, in February this year, we got a future fuels discussion paper which is not focused exclusively on electric vehicles, nor is it a strategy. My first question is: when was the decision made to release the future fuels discussion paper instead of an electric vehicle strategy, and who made that decision? Ms Evans: We might have to take the specific date on notice, but we were asked by our minister to broaden the work to look at future fuels more generally, and it was some time—we had done some extra work—before we were at the position where we would publish it. I would have to check the date. Senator RICE: You say it was some time before. We had the discussion paper released in February, so what was it? A month? Six months? Ms Evans: It was a good four or five months before—something like that—but I would need to take the date on notice. It was the third quarter.</p>	113
13	SQ21-000148	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Department funding	<p>According to your annual report (p81 and following) 2287 staff and \$1,221 million are spent on the amorphous “Enabling growth and productivity for globally competitive industries through supporting science and commercialisation, growing business investment and improving business capability and streamlining regulation”. The other four per cent of staff and spending are on a) “Reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to effective global action on climate change, and support technological innovation in clean and renewable energy, through developing and implementing a national response to climate change” • \$107 million with 142 staff b) “Support the affordable, reliable, secure and competitive operation of energy markets for the long term benefit of the Australian community through improving Australia’s energy supply, efficiency, quality, performance and productivity” • \$63 million with 211 staff c) “Facilitating the growth of small and family business” • \$24 million 64 staff While counterfactuals plague accurate analyses of policy effectiveness it is difficult to see value from these operations and the allocation of taxpayers’ money to them. But assuming the 95 per cent of staff in the “Enabling growth and productivity, etc” function are not available to help the greenhouse and energy policy people, that still leaves \$170 million and 353 staff. Plus, there is spending on consultants. QUESTION: Is it not incumbent upon you to allocate some of this funding into measuring what your policies do and how much they cost the economy?</p>	Written

14	SQ21-000105	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Anne Urquhart	Grants programs or funds	<p>1. Does your department administer any grants programs or funds? If so, what are they? 2. Do all of the grants programs have grant guidelines that are readily available to the public? 3. Who is the decision-maker for these grants or funds? How is the decision-maker assisted in making their decisions – departmental advice, an advisory group, some other independent body? 4. Were there any new grants programs or funds established in the 2020-21 MYEFO that your department is responsible for? If so, what are they, and how much funding was provided? 5. For the new grants programs, have grant guidelines been developed? Where are they up to at the moment? Will you be consulting with the Department of Finance on these guidelines? 6. For the new grants programs, who will be the decision-maker for the grants? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 7. For the new funds, how will funding be distributed? 8. For the new funds, who will be the decision-maker for the funding? How will the decision-maker be assisted in making their decisions, will it be departmental advice? An advisory group? Some other independent body? 9. How will the decision-making process ensure grants go to projects based on merit, and not whether they are in a marginal or target Liberal seat? 10. Will the Department be having regard to the sports rorts scandal to ensure that is not repeated? 11. What assurance can you give that this will not be another sports rorts scandal – and that projects will be funded based on their merit and not where they fall on a Prime Minister’s colour coded spreadsheet? 12. Were there any grants programs or funds that you administer that were provided with additional funding in the 2020-21 MYEFO? If so, what were they, and how much funding was provided?</p>	Written
15	SQ21-000024	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Anne Urquhart	Climate Solutions Fund	<p>In relation to the Climate Solutions Fund, please provide the following information: a) Total budgeted funding over the forward estimates; and b) Total amount of funding over the forward estimates that is committed and uncommitted.</p>	Written
16	SQ21-000125	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Long term climate strategy	<p>1. When will the government release its long-term climate strategy, which must be delivered under the Paris Agreement and was originally due before November 2020? 2. What is the government’s process for determining the strategy, noting that the Technology Investment Roadmap which has been called the cornerstone of the strategy does not have a focus on rapid emissions reduction consistent with the 1.5-2 degree thresholds committed under the Paris Agreement? 3. What public consultation will occur as part of the strategy’s development? 4. Will the strategy include a target for net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner? If not, why not? 5. Given the PM’s statement that Australia should get to net zero “as soon as possible” and “preferably by 2050”, has the government/ department modelled (or commissioned modelling) into what is required for Australia to reach this goal sector by sector, and what interim targets, policies or actions are required? 6. At a press</p>	Written

					conference in January 2020, the PM said the government was reviewing its policy on a net zero target, but he wouldn't agree to the plan until he knew the cost. a. Has the government/ department modelled or commissioned modelling into the cost of achieving net zero? b. Has modelling been done or commissioned into the costs to Australia's economy of not acting on climate change, for example the cost of exceeding 3 or 4 degrees of warming, which is our current trajectory? 7. When will the government be releasing its long-term climate strategy required under the Paris Agreement? What are the plans for consulting on the strategy before it is finalised?	
17	SQ21-000167	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kimberley Kitching	Services Australia	1. Did the department/agency engage with Services Australia in any capacity in the 2019-20 financial year? If yes, please provide full particulars. 2. Has the department/agency engaged with Services Australia in any capacity in the current financial year to 31 March 2021? If yes, please provide full particulars. 3. In the 2019-20 financial year, did the department/agency supply services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 4. In the current financial year to 31 March 2021, has the department/agency supplied services or information to Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars. 5. Does the department/agency employ technology or apps for users to access its services? If yes, did/does Services Australia have any involvement in the creation, development or ongoing maintenance of that technology or those apps? Please provide full particulars. 6. Does the department/agency receive data, statistics or research information from Services Australia? If yes, please provide full particulars.	Written
18	SQ21-000163	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Katy Gallagher	Working from home	1. How many requests to work from home on an ongoing basis has your agency received from staff since the Australian Public Service Commission published 'Circular 2020/9: Returning to Usual Workplaces' on 29 September 2020? 2. How many of these requests have been rejected and approved? Please outline the reasons that requests were rejected.	Written
19	SQ21-000162	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Katy Gallagher	Staffing profile	1. Please provide a staffing profile for the agency as at 1 January 2021 and 01 April 2021 by: a. APS ongoing: headcount and ASL; b. APS non-ongoing: headcount and ASL; c. Labour hire staff; headcount and FTE; and d. Other contractors.; headcount and FTE 2. Please provide the percentage of staff engaged through labour hire arrangements as a percentage of total headcount. 3. Please provide the total value of labour-hire contracts entered into between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020.	Written
20	SQ21-000144	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Large-scale Renewable Energy Target	With regard to meeting targets for reducing CO2 output, the Department has said that the "Clean Energy Regulator reported to Parliament in July 2019 that enough utility-scale renewables capacity will be built to meet the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target in 2020". I draw your attention to the following data from Mercari. 1. How, if this target has been achieved is there a positive price to RET's when any such price is possible only if the regulatory measures are in place requiring retailers incorporate this energy in their supplies? 2. Is it possible that when the Department claims, "Australia is making progress	Written

					towards achieving its Mission Innovation pledge to double clean energy R&D spending to \$216 million by 2020”, this has contributed to the increase in electricity prices that has been seen since 2016?	
21	SQ21-000146	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Investment in clean energy	Minister Angus Taylor has promoted the following chart which shows far more relative expenditure in Australia than elsewhere. 1. Could this have contributed to the reduction of price competitiveness Australia has seen?	Written
22	SQ21-000111	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Distributed Energy Resources	1. Does the responsibility for providing systems to control DER lie with the distributors? 2. What mechanisms does the AEMC have in place to ensure the management systems required are installed in a timely manner and to a nationally consistent standard? 3. Will the AEMC – or some other body - write a systems specification and call for tenders for its supply? 4. AEMC CEO Benn Barr is reported (AFR 26/3/21) as saying that the proposal does not mean that every kilowatt of energy exported into the grid would be charged... (rather there might be)... a variety of options. What technical changes would be required to household solar systems, or to distribution networks, to allow this proposal? 5. Where the operator needs to “cut solar exports to the grid to keep the system stable”, are the producers of that solar power compensated in any way for being unable to export? 6. To what extent would providing additional interconnection between states ameliorate this situation? 7. Does the Department have other planned intervention scenarios for funding new capacity (such as described by Mr Barr, or like Snowy 2.0) where current NEM arrangements are failing to provide that capacity? 8. Does the Department have scenario planning to assist companies such as AGL with its proposed offer of the Kaluza intelligent energy platform to consumers wishing to optimise the connection of EVs and other devices with rooftop solar and possible export to the grid? 9. Can the Department advise whether systems such as Kaluza can be rolled out with existing infrastructure or whether this would require investment in new grid infrastructure, controls and analytics? 10. Does the Department have any plans for addressing issues raised by organisations such as ACOSS about the inherent unfairness for people on low incomes of participating in many programs for installing renewable energy options?	Written
23	SQ21-000107	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Media article on solar household power	Recent media reports (e.g. AFR 26/3/21) said the AEMC was considering allowing distributors to charge solar households to export power to the grid “to prevent blackouts and bottlenecks in the system.” 1. The article said it would allow “more rooftop solar systems and batteries...to connect to the grid”: a. Is this measure helping resolve AEMO’s stability problems, especially on voltage controls on unloaded transmission lines? b. Is there a limit to how much roof top solar and battery power can be exported to the grid? c. Have we reached that limit? d. To what extent do grid operators have control over the amount of DER entering the grid? e. To what extent is the limitation on DER entering a	Written

					function of household inverters protecting themselves against voltage variations? f. Should AEMO – or some other body - be given the authority to control the roll-out of rooftop solar? 2. The article also said this “would provide networks with the incentive to invest in smarter management systems for the network”: a. What “smarter management systems” are required? b. Does this refer to “smart meters”? If smart meters are part of the answer, to what extent are they rolled out across the NEM? c. What other management systems may be required? d. To what extent are these systems operating in other countries or electrical systems? e. To what extent are community batteries – as proposed for the SWIS – a potential answer?	
24	SQ21-000106	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Electricity system	1. Does the Government have any plans to reform the administrative and governance structures of the electricity system, for example: a. AEMO have its primary responsibility that of ensuring a satisfactory physical generation and supply market by moving transmission planning functions elsewhere? b. Are there any plans to have monopoly transmission enterprises become more subject to the strict rules and market commitments of other electricity market participants?	Written
25	SQ21-000139	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Alternative approaches to electricity supplies	In terms of enhancing “reliable and secure” electricity supplies, has the Department undertaken studies of alternative approaches, including building new coal or gas generators, buying generators that might otherwise close, or ceasing to subsidise low quality renewable energy. Could you please supply information on these alternative costs?	Written
26	SQ21-000109	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Rule change proposals concerning NEM security	The AEMC recently announced an extension to two rule change proposals that relate to having mechanisms to value and procure specific services that help keep the NEM secure as the system transitions. The announcement said that “maintaining the electricity system within the required parameters for frequency, voltage, inertia and system strength becomes harder as the generation mix continues to evolve.” 1. Does the AEMC have a more precise estimate of the rate of degradation of system strength aligned to the increased percentage of renewables in the NEM? Should each state maintain some level of synchronous power as a back-up? 2. What specific examples from electrical systems in other countries are available for informing this process? 3. What alternative proposals for maintaining system strength does the Government or AEMC have if these proposals are not accepted? 4. Is the Government satisfied that the current three year notice of closure and national energy rules gives sufficient protection against early closure of the current coal-fired generation fleet? 5. Is the Government considering additional legislative requirement, as exists in the USA, to ensure an orderly and planned closure timetable?	Written
27	SQ21-000136	Department of Industry, Science,	Malcolm Roberts	Agreement to improve energy security and	In January 2020, the Commonwealth and NSW government signed an agreement (valued at more than \$2 billion) to improve energy security and affordability across the National	Written

		Energy and Resources		affordability across the National Energy Market	Energy Market, while reducing emissions. 1. How much will this program lower costs to consumers and how is it to be funded?	
28	SQ21-000134	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Electricity prices	The Department says (P. 53 in its Annual report) “The Underwriting New Generation Investment program worked towards supporting the introduction of new low-cost dispatchable generation, to put downwards pressure on electricity prices.” Prices have doubled in the past decade (see the data from the Market Operator). The Department will be aware that 20 years ago Australian electricity prices were among the lowest in the world but while prices remain lower than in much of Europe and Japan, they are now higher than in the US, France, Russia, China and India. (see Statistica). Although prices fell in 2020, “downwards pressure on electricity prices” is difficult to reconcile with the (pre-COVID) increase in prices that was experienced. 1. Could the Department indicate what measures were taken to foster more low cost despatchable generation and the evidence that they assembled to conclude that its actions brought downward pressure on prices?	Written
29	SQ21-000137	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Snowy 2.0 project	The Department says (p.55) Snowy Hydro Limited is progressing with the Snowy 2.0 project, which will contribute to reliable and secure energy supplies in the National Electricity Market. Snowy2 is being financed by the taxpayer to reduce costs to consumers by using electricity during low cost periods to pump water back uphill for release when prices would otherwise be high. Many estimates have been made of the cost of this scheme. 1. Could the Department appraise us of the true costs of Snowy2 including the associated transmission linkages it will require (This question could also be put to Finance as the other shareholder Department)	Written
30	SQ21-000138	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Snowy 2.0 benefits for consumers	The Technology Roadmap said “Economic modelling has found that Snowy 2.0 will provide market benefits of between \$4.4 and \$6.8 billion and reduce spot prices, leading to lower costs for consumers”. The value of the wholesale market in 2015 was about \$9 billion. 1. Could you provide the average annual saving? AND Do the projected savings take us back to a sustained \$40 per MWh price that prevailed prior to government interventions favouring renewable energy that brought the post 2015 price increases; if not, how will we compete against other nations in value-adding to our rural and mineral production?	Written
31	SQ21-000108	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Synchronous generators	1. Can AEMO or the Department confirm that “black start” is only possible from synchronous generators, not from batteries? 2. Can AEMO or the Department confirm that battery firming is only possible when there is synchronous generation operating? 3. Does AEMO or the Department agree with EIRGrid that beyond 50 per cent power penetration from non- synchronous sources would place the stability of the grid at risk? 4. Does the large voltage angle differences from Queensland to South Australia in the NEM make this even more of a risk?	Written

32	SQ21-000110	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	LNG import terminals	1. Given AEMO's annual outlook for the east coast gas market released on 29 March 2021 providing a more optimistic view about the supply of gas, coupled with the likely development of Hydrogen as an alternative, is the Government considering an intervention into proposals for the development of LNG import terminals in eastern Australia? 2. Has the Government conducted any detailed analysis of the impact of the LNG export facilities at Gladstone which would provide planning guidance for the likely number of import terminals required to meet domestic needs? 3. Has the Government considered intervening to restrict the number of LNG import terminals? 4. Has the Government considered any alternative proposals for ensuring adequate domestic supply at reasonable prices beyond the "big stick"?	Written
33	SQ21-000135	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Lower energy costs for consumers	In its Annual Report, (p. 53), the Department says it delivered a number of key Australian Government commitments in 2019–20 to help lower energy costs for consumers under the National Energy Productivity Plan. It listed major outcomes as including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • launching the Business Energy Advice Program in August 2019, and completing more than 4223 consultations to help small businesses get better energy deals • launching the Energy Efficient Communities Program (under the Climate Solutions Package) in April 2020 to work with businesses and community organisations to help them save energy and lower energy bills • accelerating the expansion of the National Australian Built Environment Rating System to help industry compare the energy performance of schools, retail stores and industrial buildings • continuing to implement the 2019 Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings. 1. Please identify the extent of those benefits in terms of the lower cost to consumers.	Written
34	SQ21-000124	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Australian Energy Market Operator	1. AEMO recently rejected a proposal to model the 'gas fired recovery' in the next iteration of the ISP, after it got criticised in the expert consultation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Did the Minister or Department ask AEMO to do this scenario? b. Given AEMO has rejected it, why won't the government? 2. Are you able to explain why AEMO's gas planning modelling does include a "Gas Led Scenario" where "it is assumed that the following two pipelines are constructed, possibly with non-financial government incentives", being the Hunter Gas Pipeline past Narrabri, and the Beetaloo to Moomba pipeline (page 10)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Did the government ask AEMO to include this scenario? b. Does this mean the government has already chosen the pipelines it wants to subsidise? 	Written
35	SQ21-000123	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	National Gas Infrastructure Plan (NGIP)	1. The government is developing a National Gas Infrastructure Plan (NGIP). This will cost \$11 billion. The Minister says it will be used to work out what pipelines the government will subsidise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How will these subsidies be delivered? b. When? c. What integrity measures will be taken to ensure this money doesn't just go to gas company profits? 2. The Australian Pipelines and Gas Association (APGA) recently stated they have "been engaged closely with the officials working on the project", being the NGIP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What role are they playing? b. How are you managing conflicts of interest with them? 3. Are you aware	Written

					<p>of research APGA commissioned recently, showing lowest cost power would mean no increase in gas use? And that report even ignored transmission and existing hydro power.</p> <p>a. So even the gas industry is saying we don't need more gas - correct? b. In the context of the NGIP, are you working closely with any other peak groups? Please provide a list.</p> <p>4. Major manufacturing groups like the Australian Industry Group are calling for policy to reduce gas demand in households and industry.</p> <p>a. Do you agree that increased gas efficiency and electrification are key to reducing energy costs and emissions? b. How will the NGIP look at these options? c. Is the NGIP considering the impact on emissions at all?</p> <p>5. You have said NGIP will be like the AEMO Integrated System Plan. AEMO runs gas markets in Australia, much like they run the NEM, and does many studies on the gas system.</p> <p>a. Why isn't the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) carrying out the NGIP work?</p>	
36	SQ21-000143	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Support for particular technologies	<p>Some would argue that funding and other support to selective technologies amounts to a policy pejoratively described as "winner-picking", which Australian governments since that of Hawke have largely rejected.</p> <p>1. Does selective support for particular technologies represent a U-turn?</p>	Written
37	SQ21-000145	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Australian public investment in clean energy R&D	<p>The Department says "In 2017–18 (the latest year for which data is available), Australian public investment in clean energy R&D totalled \$136.9 million, a 27% increase on our 2015–16 Mission Innovation baseline."</p> <p>1. Is this a worthwhile goal or has it contributed to the increase in electricity prices?</p>	Written
38	SQ21-000142	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Cost-effectiveness of the department's programs at reducing emissions	<p>All of us want to see taxpayers and consumers of products where supply is regulated obtaining the best value. Mindful of this, the Department has doubtless examined the costs, in terms of CO2 emissions avoided, of its various programs, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o biological sequestration o its support for hydrogen research o renewable energy requirements o support through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, ARENA, the newly announced Carbon Capture, Use and Storage Development Fund, and o the Future Fuels Package./ <p>1. Could you provide details of the cost-effectiveness of outlays on these and other policies in terms of emission reductions per dollar?</p>	Written
39	SQ21-000141	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Cost of 'stretch' goals in the department's Technology Investment Roadmap	<p>Stretch goals, according to the Department's Technology Investment Roadmap, "could also cover the permanent storage cost of carbon capture use and storage (CCUS), biological sequestration (in soil and vegetation), firmed renewables, and long duration energy storage".</p> <p>1. What are the actual and targeted costs of these approaches and how much of these costs are estimated to fall on Australian taxpayers and consumers?</p>	Written
40	SQ21-000112	Department of Industry,	Larissa Waters	Grid Investment	<p>Grid Investment</p> <p>1. Why does the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020 include amendments that would give the relevant Minister more</p>	Written

		Science, Energy and Resources			power to direct the independent CEFC's investments and a new definition for low emissions technology that would set them up to invest in dirty gas? 2. Is it true that the CEFC is already able to invest in all of the types of 'grid reliability' that the legislative amendments claim to enable (e.g., new energy generation, energy storage, and transmission infrastructure)? 3. Is there any reason why the new \$1 billion Fund intended for the CEFC cannot be provided to CEFC without amending their legislation through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020? 4. Are there any other plans underway to undermine the current mandate of the CEFC including by altering the list of prohibited technologies in their Act? If so, how would this support their core mission of mobilising investment in clean energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies?	
41	SQ21-000140	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	National Hydrogen Strategy	In its Technology Investment Roadmap Discussion Paper, the Department offers a framework to accelerate low emissions technologies, which it says is "an enduring strategy to accelerate the development and commercialisation of new and emerging low emissions technologies". A key feature is a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund ostensibly adopted after advice in a report from senior businesspeople. Crucially this is to finance what the Roadmap refers to as optimistic or "stretch" goals. Among the "stretch" goals is the National Hydrogen Strategy, which aims at producing hydrogen at under \$2 per kg (current prices are around \$6 per kg) 1. What are the timelines for this? 2. Is it likely that, should such a crucial breakthrough be possible, it would be made by Australian government R&D funding? 3. How does this goal relate to the wholesale energy price target of > \$70 per MWh that was set and easily achieved in 2019-20 since a \$2 per kg price equates to \$100-200 per Megawatt hour when a competitive electricity generation cost is under \$60 per MWh, and commercial consultancies (e.g. Solstice) indicate that HELE coal is available at less than \$50 per MWh? 4. Is hydrogen, even if the \$2 per kg goal is achieved, likely to encourage the continuation and expansion of manufacturing that is the department's key goal?	Written
42	SQ21-000147	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Malcolm Roberts	Estimated annual costs in 2018/19 of renewable energy subsidies and support	You will be aware of work that One Nation commissioned from Dr Alan Moran, a one time First Assistant Secretary of a predecessor Department to DISER, a First Assistant Commissioner of the Productivity Commission and Deputy Secretary Energy of the Victorian Department of Agriculture and Energy. Even excluding costs from transmission, expenditures, on Snowy2 and interventions made by the market operator, Dr Moran estimated the annual costs in 2018/19 of renewable energy subsidies and support at \$6.9 billion. This estimate was made from publicly available information in state and Commonwealth budget papers and from regulatory authorities. It comprises Commonwealth expenditures, the costs of Commonwealth subsidy schemes, and state expenditures and subsidy schemes. These are summarised in the following three tables: 1. Does the Department agree with these estimates; if not can it provide those of its own?	Written

43	SQ21-000025	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kim Carr	Fuel Security	<p>1. Questions in relation to Australia’s compliance with its obligation under the International Energy Program: a. Is it correct that in 2012 Australia became non-compliant with its obligation under the International Energy Program to maintain oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of the previous year’s daily net oil requirements? b. Is it correct that Australia remains non-compliant with this obligation? c. Does the Government remain committed to returning to full compliance by 2026? d. If yes, what measures are being taken to do so? e. If no, is the Government still committed to restoring full compliance? When does the Government expect Australia will return to full compliance, if not by 2026? f. What effect has the Covid-19 pandemic had on efforts to restore compliance? g. What percentage of Australia’s liquid fuel requirements is imported? 2. What effect will the announced closures of the BP refinery in Kwinana, WA, and the ExxonMobil refinery in Altona, Victoria, have on Australia’s ability to meet its fuel-security obligation? 3. In September last year the Government announced a fuel-security package that included “backing the refining sector by entering into a detailed market design process for a refinery production payment” (Boosting Australia’s Fuel Security – joint media release by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, 14/09/20). a. What measures were involved in this process? b. What was the outcome? 4. Did the Government discuss further means of keeping the Kwinana and Altona refineries open with BP and ExxonMobil? If yes, what measures were proposed? What were the companies’ responses? 5. Does the Government expect the two remaining refineries in Australia, operated by Viva Energy in Geelong, Victoria, and by Ampol in Lytton, Queensland, to remain open? 6. Is the Government in discussions with these companies about their intentions? Are there measures in place to support their continuing operation? 7. The media release referred to earlier stated that the Government is committed to retaining an onshore refining capability, despite threats to the viability of the industry. a. Does the Government still adhere to this commitment? b. If so, does the Government have a plan to attract new investment in onshore oil refining if either the Lytton or Geelong refineries close, or both? c. If not, why not? 8. What are the estimated direct job losses from the closures of the Kwinana and Altona refineries? 9. What are the estimated job losses in chemical manufacturing and other industries reliant on the refineries’ products? 10. Has the Department assessed whether some firms in these associated industries will be unable to continue operating without a reliable local supply of refined oil products? 11. What is the extent of the Australian holdings in the space leased within the US Strategic Oil Reserve? Are they at full capacity? a. Have the pandemic and military tensions in the South China Sea prompted any reassessment of this \$94 million deal? b. Is it still the Government’s preference not to have an onshore reserve? Why? c. In the event of an emergency, what is the minimum time in which Australian oil held in the US reserve could be transferred to Australia? d. Are there any circumstances in which the US could prevent such a transfer? e.</p>	Written
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					The deal was negotiated under the Trump administration. Has the change of administrations in the US had any consequences for the deal?	
44	SQ21-000169	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Rachel Siewert	Chevron CCS facility on Barrow Island	1. Is there any contract or agreement associated with the Commonwealth Government funding that was provided for the establishment of the Barrow Island CCS facility? If not, why not? If so, can this be tabled? 2. Assuming there is a contract or agreement with Chevron associated with the provision of public funding for the CCS facility on Barrow Island, does this include requirements for ongoing reporting in respect of the operation of that facility? 3. Does the Department believe that the operation and performance of the Chevron CCS facility on Barrow Island consistent with the terms of the contract or funding agreement that is associated with the provision of public funds for this facility? 4. If not, what action is being taken or considered by the Department and what action can be taken? 5. Is the Department aware of limits that have been placed on the operation of the CCS facility by the WA Government regulator? What implications do these limits, or the other operational issues with the CCS facility on Barrow Island have for any agreements or contracts that are in place between the Commonwealth and Chevron?	Written
45	SQ21-000121	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Beetaloo Subsidies	Late last year the government announced around a quarter of a billion dollars in subsidies for gas fracking in the Beetaloo Basin. Beneficiaries of this money include some of the largest companies in Australia, Origin and Santos, who are already planning fracking exploration. First there was \$50 million in subsidies for gas exploration in the Beetaloo Basin. 1. How is the \$50 million in support for gas exploration in the Beetaloo Basin going to be delivered? 2. Will it come before Parliament? 3. Will the companies need to show they actually need the money? 4. If the companies end up finding commercial quantities, will they be required to pay back the money? 5. Why are was the decision made to prioritise Beetaloo over alternative basins?	Written
46	SQ21-000122	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	NT Gas Roads	There is also \$170 million from the Commonwealth for the "NT Gas Roads" upgrades. 1. The gas industry is a huge, mature industry - why should the taxpayer fund their roads? 2. How was this decision to fund this program made? 3. What cost benefit analysis was done for this funding? 4. What is the legal mechanism for delivering this funding?	Written
47	SQ21-000157	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Samantha McMahon	Development of the on-shore gas industry in the Northern Territory	Development of on-shore gas industry in the Northern Territory: 1. Can you please identify how you have been supporting the development of the NT on shore gas industry? 2. I note the partnership extends back to 2019-20 budget where the Commonwealth provided 8.4 million to support the development of the Beetaloo Basin. Can you tell me what this money was used for? a. Has the NT Government welcomed your assistance to date? 3. What do you see as the most significant risks to developing the Beetaloo Basin? 4. Is the NT Government aware of these risks and managing them accordingly? 5. As the Commonwealth regulator of Matters of National Environmental Significance, as you confident that the NT government has the resources to support the development of the	Written

					Beetaloo Basin? 6. How do you feel the NT government is managing the issue of environmental activism in the Beetaloo Basin? a. Is the NT Government working on the ground to ensure information about environmental impacts is distributed to the community? I understand the Commonwealth has funded the CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Resources Alliance to support the NT government in this endeavour. b. What are you doing to ensure the information about environmental impacts is being provided to the Community? c. Do you feel that the commonwealth is doing all the heavy lifting?	
48	SQ21-000170	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Larissa Waters	Notice of closure rules	<p>Senator WATERS: No problem. Thank you. I want to raise another brief matter. Renewables have obviously driven the wholesale price of energy down. My understanding is the government has created a rule in the energy market that coal companies have to give 3½ years notice before they close. Do you expect the notice of closure rules to effectively require coal companies to operate at a loss for three to four years in order to avoid the fine? Would you expect that an exemption will be granted? Ms Parry: As you are well aware, a three-year notice of closure period came into effect. I will get some detail on this during the break about how and when that came to effect and if it was written into the national energy rules. I certainly know that it came in after Hazelwood had closed unexpectedly. A notice of closure period was required so that the market could adjust and we wouldn't see the kind of spike in prices that we saw post the Hazelwood closure. I'm happy to get more detail about the history of that. Senator WATERS: I'm not so much interested in the history, thank you. I will certainly take whatever you are able to provide on notice. I'm interested in whether the effect of that rule is that coal companies will have to operate at a loss for that period of time before they close. Ms Parry: There is no provision in the rules, as I would understand it, that would require a company to operate at a loss. But there would be penalties imposed on a company should they have a shorter notice of closure period. Senator WATERS: There is no exemption written in for the fact that they might be operating at a loss? Ms Parry: I'm happy to get some of the detail because I need to go into the rules to get a look at what those penalties are and how they would apply. I'm happy to come back in our energy session with that information. Senator WATERS: Thank you. I appreciate that. You might need to do the same on this one. I'm interested if the rule still holds if the plant isn't closed but is mothballed, so it can obviously be reopened at any point. Does that also violate the notice of closure rule? Ms Parry: It depends. As you would be aware, coal plants can also phase down. So it doesn't prevent a coal plant from phasing down, as it could stop operating a number of units, as Liddell is, for instance. That certainly doesn't stop them from phasing down. Senator WATERS: I'm still keen to know the answer to the mothball question. Mr Sullivan: We're happy to get you that extra information over the break.</p>	102

49	SQ21-000173	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Executive Management - energy & climate change agencies	1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020: a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. c. The change in the number of executive manager positions. d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.	
50	SQ21-000176	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial functions - energy & climate change agencies	1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
51	SQ21-000179	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial meals - energy & climate change agencies	1. In relation to any breakfasts, luncheons, dinners or other meals hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided: a. List of dates and types of meals. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
52	SQ21-000182	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Departmental functions - energy & climate change agencies	1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
53	SQ21-000186	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Facilities upgrades - energy & climate change agencies	1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment. 2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.	Written
54	SQ21-000189	Department of Industry, Science,	Kristina Keneally	Staff travel - energy & climate change agencies	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	Written

		Energy and Resources				
55	SQ21-000200	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Legal costs - energy & climate change agencies	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	Written
56	SQ21-000204	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Briefings to independents and minor parties - energy & climate change agencies	1. Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, can the following be provided: a. The subject matter of the briefing. b. The location and date of the briefing. c. Who proposed the briefing. d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position	Written
57	SQ21-000208	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Departmental staff allowances - energy & climate change agencies	1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	Written
58	SQ21-000211	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Market research - energy & climate change agencies	1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies. 2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of: a. Subject matter b. Company c. Costs each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 d. Contract date period 3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.	Written
59	SQ21-000214	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Advertising and information campaigns - energy & climate change agencies	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide: a. When approval was first sought. b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process. c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline. 3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.	Written
60	SQ21-000217	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Promotional merchandise - energy & climate change agencies	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided. 3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.	Written

61	SQ21-000220	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Collateral materials - energy & climate change agencies	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on collateral materials, including banners, publications, maps, charts and high visibility or protective clothing for events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits, including Ministerial events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 2. For each event or function where the Department/agency expended funds on collateral materials, provide details of the event, including the date and location of each event, and details of the types of materials.	Written
62	SQ21-000223	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial overseas travel - energy & climate change agencies	1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 please be provided including: a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided.	Written
63	SQ21-000226	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial domestic travel - energy & climate change agencies	1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all domestic travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 please be provided including: a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available	Written

					menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided	
64	SQ21-000229	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Social media influencers - energy & climate change agencies	1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote. 3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided. 4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.	Written
65	SQ21-000232	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Commissioned Reports and Reviews - energy & climate change agencies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including: a. Date commissioned. b. Date report handed to Government. c. Date of public release. d. Terms of Reference. e. Committee members and/or Reviewers. 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost. 3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel. 4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel 5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review. 6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level. 7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.	Written
66	SQ21-000235	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Board appointments - energy & climate change agencies	1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members. 2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio 3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to date. 4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid. 5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors. 6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.	Written
67	SQ21-000239	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Media monitoring - energy & climate change agencies	1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21. 2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each	Written

					period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.	
68	SQ21-000242	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Communications staff - energy & climate change agencies	1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following: 2. By Department or agency: a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location. d. How many are graphic designers. e. How many are media managers. f. How many organise events. 3. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios. a. If yes, why. b. When was it established. c. What is the set up cost. d. What is the ongoing cost. e. How many staff work there and what are their classifications.	Written
69	SQ21-000247	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Congestion busting - energy & climate change agencies	1. Can the Department/agency advise how it is “congestion busting” in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks. 2. Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve “congestion busting” within the department.	Written
70	SQ21-000250	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Recruitment - energy & climate change agencies	1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.	Written
71	SQ21-000253	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Staffing - energy & climate change agencies	1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 10 November 2020. 2. How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing. 3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. How many were: a. voluntary b. involuntary. 4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies. 5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff. 6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020. 7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 to date.	Written
72	SQ21-000257	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Commission - energy & climate change agencies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	Written

73	SQ21-000260	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Ombudsman - energy & climate change agencies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.	Written
74	SQ21-000263	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner - energy & climate change agencies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	Written
75	SQ21-000266	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Public Interest Disclosures - energy & climate change agencies	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	Written
76	SQ21-000269	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Travel and expense claim policy - energy & climate change agencies	1 Please produce a copy of all travel and expense claim policies. 2 Please produce a copy of all claim forms. If the forms are digital, please provide a screen shot of each section, including all dropdown options.	Written
77	SQ21-000272	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of interest - energy & climate change agencies	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of interest as at 10 November 2020.	Written
78	SQ21-000275	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of gifts and hospitality - energy & climate change agencies	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of gifts as at 10 November 2020.	Written
79	SQ21-000279	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	FOI - energy & climate change agencies	1. Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; 2019-20, and; f. 2020-21 to date. 2. For each year above, please provide: a. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full; b. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part; c. The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and d. The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under	Written

					<p>the Freedom of Information Act. 3. For each year above, please also provide: a. The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and b. The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request). 4. For each year above, please also provide: a. The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and b. The number of times has the OAIC overturned – in whole or in part – the Department's decision to refuse access to material. 5. Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests, broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four APS6s, one SES) for each of the following years: a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; f. 2019-20, and; g. 2020-21 to date. 6. For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department. 7. In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level. 8. Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office. 9. Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response. 10. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so: a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister. 11. Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation, transfer of request).</p>	
80	SQ21-000283	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Appointments – briefs prepared - energy & climate change agencies	1. How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level. 2. For each brief prepared, can the Department advise: a. The former member. b. The board or entity. c. Whether the request originated from the Minister's office. d. Whether the appointment was made.	Written
81	SQ21-000285	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	Kristina Keneally	Departmental equipment - energy & climate change agencies	What was the estimated value of all Departmental equipment that was lost, damaged, stolen or written off during each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020.	Written
82	SQ21-000012	Australian Renewable	Nita Green	ARENA staffing costs	Senator GREEN: How much money otherwise allocated to be used as grant funding for projects supported by ARENA has been redirected to cover the agency's staffing costs, if	128

		Energy Agency (ARENA)			any? Mr Miller: Senator, if you want a precise number, I'd have to take that on notice. Do you want a rough number, or should I— Senator GREEN: I think your colleague is seeking the call. Mr Kay: In terms of APS from the department, none. We get provided them via resources received free of charge. Senator GREEN: Can you also take on notice how much money has been spent on consultants that work on a day-to-day basis? Mr Miller: Sure. Senator GREEN: Maybe a number and a figure of what the cost is. Mr Miller: Over what time period of time, Senator? Senator GREEN: If we could do on a financial year basis going forward and this financial year? Mr Miller: Sure.	
83	SQ21-000129	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Bridget McKenzie	Working from home - follow up questions for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Follow-up questions on notice to QON 34 (portfolio question number 53): 1. How many staff does the agency have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Are any agency staff based in rural or regional locations? a. How many? b. What percentage do capital city based-staff make-up of your workforce compared to rural- and regional-based staff? 3. How many staff worked-from-home each month from the agency for the period October 2020 to March 2021? 4. In response to question 2, the agency has provided information on productivity. Can the agency conclude whether overall productivity increased, remained static or declined during the COVID period compared to the same period during 2018-19? a. If productivity remained static or increased, how will the agency work to maintain this productivity, or if productivity declined, improve productivity? b. What opportunity exists for the agency to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during COVID?	Written
84	SQ21-000150	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Malcolm Roberts	CEFC impairment provision	CEFC impairment provision at 30 June 2020 was \$121.1 million compared with \$59.7 million in the previous year). This 100 per cent increase represented 5.1 per cent of loans and advances at amortised cost compared with 2.3 per cent in 2018–19. 1. What are your projections for impairment over the next 5 years? 2. Will we see any of this money repaid? 3. How much have you written off in terms of lost capital and foregone interest? 4. Are the loss provisions of over 5 per cent very high when compared to the RBA's economy-wide estimate of 1.6 per cent and does this not suggest some deficiency in your lending processes?	Written
85	SQ21-000149	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Malcolm Roberts	CEFC surplus in 2019-20	Your claim is “We invest to lead the market, operating with commercial rigour to address some of Australia’s toughest emissions challenges – in agriculture, energy generation and storage, infrastructure, property, transport and waste. With \$10 billion to invest on behalf of the Australian Government, we work to deliver a positive return for taxpayers across our portfolio.” The CEFC recorded \$100.5 million of normalised surplus from operations in 2019–20 compared with \$143.6 million in the prior year. 1. Is this not a disappointing decline and do you expect a recovery?	Written
86	SQ21-000151	Clean Energy Finance	Malcolm Roberts	System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS)	CEFC, under its new System Integrity Protection Scheme (SIPS), recently lent \$160 million to finance the Neoen 300 MW Victorian Big Battery, which has a long term Victorian government contract. The Big Battery is intended to supply reserve power to “firm up” the	Written

		Corporation (CEFC)			supply of electricity, which has become irregular due to the growth of wind/solar supplies; those supplies themselves are only made possible by Commonwealth and state subsidies 1. Do you see any incongruities in a system that lends on preferred terms to stabilise supplies that themselves would not have been built without subsidies? 2. Other than by providing still further assistance to wind and solar, how does this funding encourage private investment in Australia's clean energy sector when the evidence suggests that we over perform?	
87	SQ21-000126	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Bridget McKenzie	Working from home - follow up questions for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Follow-up questions on notice to QON 34 (portfolio question number 53): 1. How many staff does the agency have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Are any agency staff based in rural or regional locations? a. How many? b. What percentage do capital city based-staff make-up of your workforce compared to rural- and regional-based staff? 3. How many staff worked-from-home each month from the agency for the period October 2020 to March 2021? 4. In response to question 2, the agency has provided that there is no definitive and objective productivity measure that is regularly tracked and reported, but several measures indicate that there was an increase in the number of investment transactions closed and an increase in the number of work days with staff cancelling leave. Can the agency conclude whether productivity remained static, increased, or declined during the work-from-home period compared to the period prior? a. How does the agency usually measure and monitor productivity? b. How will the agency work to maintain increased productivity, or if productivity declined, improve productivity? c. What opportunity exists for the agency to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during COVID? 5. For question 3, agency data shows an 18.2 per cent increase in the number of personal/sick days of taken between February to September 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What are the reasons for this increase in personal/sick leave? a. How will the agency work to reduce the amount of personal/sick leave taken? b. If the agency has staff based in rural/regional areas, is there a comparison of personal/sick leave taken for these staff compared to city-based staff?	Written
88	SQ21-000158	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Samantha McMahon	CEFC financing and investment	1. Has the Clean Energy Finance Corporation received any interest for low cost finance for Nuclear (including SMR's), Carbon Capture and Storage or HELE coal fired power projects either before or following the Nationals Senate Team announcement on the 18 of February 2021? 2. Noting the CEFC's investment guidelines state (Page 2): Low-emission technologies may be applied to a number of activities including, but not limited to: - energy production - electricity generation including the use of non-renewable, fossil fuels - fuels for and modes of transportation, and - using, reducing, or eliminating existing fugitive greenhouse gas emissions. And that the low-emission technology will result in emissions of CO2e being substantially lower than the current average of the most relevant baseline for the activity being undertaken. Should the prohibition be removed, can you see any other barriers to the CEFC investing in the above low emissions technologies? 3. Has	Written

					the CEFC undertaken any analysis on the types of investment that it could undertake should the changes to the legislation occur? 4. Can you please identify what kind of finance you provide to energy generation projects and low emissions technologies? 5. Noting the likely large scale of projects, has the CEFC considered its industry engagement strategy, should changes to the legislation be made to support investments in the above energy sources?	
89	SQ21-000127	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Bridget McKenzie	Working from home - follow up questions for the Clean Energy Regulator	Follow-up questions on notice to QON 34 (portfolio question number 53): 1. How many staff does the agency have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Are any agency staff based in rural or regional locations? a. How many? b. What percentage do capital city based-staff make-up of your workforce compared to rural- and regional-based staff? 3. How many staff worked-from-home each month from the agency for the period October 2020 to March 2021? 4. In response to question 2, the agency concluded it had static productivity. How does the agency usually measure productivity? a. How will the agency work to maintain or increase productivity? b. What opportunity exists for the agency to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during COVID? 5. For question 3, agency data shows a 17.5 per cent decrease in the number of sick days of taken between February to September 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. What are the reasons for this decrease in personal/sick leave? a. How will the agency work to maintain the reduction in personal/sick leave taken? b. If the agency has staff based in rural/regional areas, is there a comparison of sick leave taken for these staff compared to city-based staff?	Written
90	SQ21-000076	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Larissa Waters	Carbon Estimation Areas for Avoided Deforestation	1. What is the total area (in hectares) of all Carbon Estimation Areas for Avoided Deforestation projects registered under the ERF? 2. What is the total area (in hectares) of all Carbon Estimation Areas for Avoided Deforestation projects contracted under the ERF?	Written
91	SQ21-000132	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Malcolm Roberts	Opt-in Program	The new scheme foreshadowed in the Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency report is billed as an opt-in program but is likely to be used by green activist organisations to target those companies that initially choose not to opt in. 1. Has the Regulator estimated the effects of placing such pressures on business? 2. Can the Regulator offer information regarding its compliance costs on business?	Written
92	SQ21-000131	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Malcolm Roberts	Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency report	A new scheme, the Corporate Emissions Reduction Transparency report, seeks to gather and codify information from all companies, rather than the 2,500 presently covered in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Scheme. The scheme is open to public comment until 19 March 2021 in a government media release of 19 February. 1. 28 days seems short; is this part of the regulation impact statement (RIS) procedure required by the government? Have you estimated the paper burden costs of the scheme?	Written

93	SQ21-000130	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Malcolm Roberts	Cost of regulation on business	The purpose of the agency is listed as being “Accelerating Carbon Abatement for Australia”. Any such goal must be tempered by the costs this entails. The Regulator administers a range of programs including the Emissions Reduction Fund, the Renewable Energy Target and the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme. The regulator has a budget of about \$75 million. 1. It is generally recognised that the costs imposed on business by regulations is considerably in excess of the direct costs of the regulator itself. Have you estimated the costs of compliance by businesses as required by the government’s regulation review guidelines?	Written
94	SQ21-000113	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Larissa Waters	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)	1. The Government has directed the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to develop a method to allow Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects to receive Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs). That would make CCS eligible for funding under the Emissions Reduction Fund, or to be sold to third parties to offset their emissions. a. Where is the development of the method up to now? b. When is it due to be finished? 2. Most existing CCS projects globally are “enhanced oil recovery”, where CO2 is reinjected into the reservoir to help the company extract more hydrocarbons. a. Will ACCUs be eligible for enhanced oil recovery? b. Is this still be debated? 3. Under the Carbon Credits Act 2011 (Section 133), the method for generating ACCUs must ensure offsets must be genuine and additional. a. How is enhanced oil recovery a genuine reduction in emissions? 4. CCS for enhanced oil recovery can in fact increase overall emissions, with the emissions from extra fossil production outweighing the sequestered emissions. A good example is the Boundary Dam CCS EOR. a. How are you going to stop that happening here? b. How will you ensure ACCUs are not made available for CCS and enhanced oil recovery that would have already occurred (therefore is not additional)? c. Do you think the market will think ACCUs issued for enhanced oil recovery will be credible in the market? d. Have you investigated this at all with stakeholders beyond the gas and oil companies that can profit from this potential methodology? 5. Gas giant, Santos has said they are “working with” government departments to develop this method to help deliver carbon credits to its proposed Moomba CCS project. a. What input are they having? b. Why are they having input before the public? c. Are you consulting others to develop this method? If so, who else are you consulting with and can anyone apply to be involved in these discussions? d. Can you confirm that Santos’ Moomba CCS project proposes enhanced oil recovery? 6. Once the method is complete, it will go to the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) for consideration and possible approval. a. Has anyone at ERAC expressed a view about using CCS for enhanced oil recovery? b. Can you confirm the names and professional backgrounds of the new appointees? c. What was the method of selection for Dr. Fisher to sit on ERAC?	Written
95	SQ21-000128	Climate Change	Bridget McKenzie	Working from home - follow	Follow-up questions on notice to QON 34 (portfolio question number 53): 1. How many staff does the agency have working in capital cities, including Canberra? 2. Are any agency	Written

		Authority (CCA)		up questions for the Climate Change Authority	staff based in rural or regional locations? a. How many? b. What percentage do capital city based-staff make-up of your workforce compared to rural- and regional-based staff? 3. How many staff worked-from-home each month from the agency for the period October 2020 to March 2021? 4. In response to question 2, the agency did not comment on whether productivity increased, remained static or declined during the work-from-home period. Can the agency conclude whether productivity increased, remained static or declined for this period? a. How does the agency usually measure productivity? b. How will the agency work to maintain or increase productivity, or if productivity declined, improve productivity? c. What opportunity exists for the agency to decentralise from city locations given staff have been able to work from home during COVID? 5. For question 3, agency data was unavailable for the months of April, May and June 2019. Using data available for the same months in 2020 and 2019, there has been a 46 per cent increase in the number of sick days taken between February and March and July, August and September 2020 compared to the same months in 2019. What are the reasons for this increase in personal/sick leave? a. How will the agency work to reduce the amount of personal/sick leave taken? b. If the agency has staff based in rural/regional areas, is there a comparison of sick leave taken for these staff compared to city-based staff?	
96	SQ21-000133	Climate Change Authority (CCA)	Malcolm Roberts	Climate and energy policies	Climate policies and associated energy policies are costing Australians tens of billions of dollars, indirectly costing hundreds of billions of dollars and in terms of combined opportunity costs and indirect costs will cost our country trillions of dollars. 1. On what scientific basis are your policies based? Please provide the justification for such policies in the form of specific logical scientific points. A logical scientific point is one that contains empirical scientific data within a logical framework proving cause-and-effect. This requires a specific statement from the cited reference with that statement's specific location being title, author(s), page number with data table, and page number of specific sentences(s) cited. If your answer includes scientific papers or other scientific references, we can only see your references as valid if you specify the specific location – being publication title, page number, cited sentence, data table – of any claimed scientific data as evidence within a logical framework that proves and quantifies causation.	Written
97	SQ21-000014	Snowy Hydro Limited	Kim Carr	Letter to Minister regarding Ryan Corner project	Senator KIM CARR: Minister, you have undertaken to find the letter that has also been written to the minister you're representing. I'm putting it to you that a similar letter has been written. But I understand that no reply has been sent. Can you explain to me why that is? Senator Seselja: Again, I'd have to check because I'm checking on the original letter. I'm not aware of it but I'm seeking some further information. If I can get that for you tonight, I will; otherwise, I'm happy to take it on notice.	138
98	SQ21-000015	Snowy Hydro Limited	Kim Carr	Australian steel policy	Senator KIM CARR: ... Minister, can you take on notice whether or not the Commonwealth of Australia's policy, as it is in shipbuilding, is to use Australian steel, in support for local manufacturing sovereign capability, in circumstances such as we have before us in the	138

					building of a wind farm underwritten by a wholly-owned Commonwealth entity such as Snowy Hydro? Senator Seselja: I'm very happy to.	
99	SQ21-000019	Snowy Hydro Limited	Rex Patrick	Contact with Bisalloy	Senator PATRICK: Alright. Just in terms of effort to get Australian content into this project, I would have thought that you could have reached out to Bisalloy, which is the company doing the steel for the Australian submarines. The pressure hull work is certainly being done here in Australia. Did anyone contact Bisalloy about high-strength steel? Mr Broad: I can't comment on that. Senator PATRICK: Alright. Can you take that on notice, please? So did anyone in Snowy do that, in terms of using Australian steel. Thank you.	140
100	SQ21-000018	Snowy Hydro Limited	Rex Patrick	Modifications to Australian steel standard	Senator PATRICK: A lot of these projects ought to be about technology transfer and capital work here as well, not just about driving an excavator. And, in a sense, this next question goes to this. You provided the Australian steel standard that you are using—AS 1210, AS 3597—but you then mention that the standard has a number of modifications to that. I would like to know who proposed the modifications to the standard and what those modifications have in terms of negative impact on the supply of Australian steel into your project? Mr Broad: Again, I will take it on notice, but I will note that between 60 and 70 per cent of all of the steel in the project is steel from Australian manufacturing.	140
101	SQ21-000017	Snowy Hydro Limited	Rex Patrick	Australian industry content	Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much. I asked questions about Australian industry content. I was asking about what metrics were used to assess or determine the actual levels. You provided answers that talked about not sourcing via a shopfront, subcontracted overseas et cetera. You provided a list of companies, but no real metric. There is no real description of exactly how you determine what is Australian content. You kind of said, 'This is what it's not.' Can you please elaborate on that a little bit more? I presume you've got a policy on this. Mr Broad: I'll take it on notice. Senator PATRICK: Thank you.	140
102	SQ21-000016	Snowy Hydro Limited	Rex Patrick	Milestone schedule	Senator PATRICK: I don't think we've got time. I'm mindful of the time. But I do note that, for example, you say 'complete commissioning of all units in 2026'. That's an entire year. I was expecting a date on all of these contract doesn't just say 2026, because that's hardly an enforceable contract, so can you please come back with something a bit more detailed? Mr Broad: I will take it offline and see what we can do for you.	139-140
103	SQ21-000115	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Transmission Connection to Snowy 2.0	1. Are you aware that overhead transmission lines are prohibited in Kosciuszko National Park? 2. Why didn't Snowy Hydro include the cost of underground transmission in its business case for Snowy 2.0 along with the underground power station and tunnels?	Written
104	SQ21-000118	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Government financing	1. At Senate Estimates on 8 April 2019 you said Snowy Hydro didn't ask for an equity injection of \$1.38B, yet the following day Senator Cormann quoted from a letter from the Snowy Hydro Chair seeking \$1.38B in order for the Board to reach a Final Investment Decision. Why did you mislead the Senate Committee? 2. Do you agree that support from the government (i.e. Australian taxpayers), additional to the previously committed \$1.38B 'equity injection', will be necessary? If so, how much?	Written

105	SQ21-000120	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Jobs and regional investment expenditure	1. How many operational jobs will be created by Snowy 2.0? 2. How much of the \$6+B cost of Snowy 2.0 will be contracted to Australian companies and communities?	Written
106	SQ21-000119	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Dividend estimates	1. Do you agree that when the shares for SH were purchased from NSW and VIC, the expectation was for dividends to average \$275M/year for the next 4 years? 2. Why hasn't SH been able to achieve that level? 3. What is your estimate for dividends for 2020-21 and future years?	Written
107	SQ21-000114	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Electricity prices	1. Will electricity prices fall as a result of Snowy 2.0, as stated repeatedly by Snowy Hydro, the PM and Energy Minister? 2. By how much will prices fall? 3. Does Snowy realise that your own modelling predicts that prices will increase as a result of Snowy 2.0? 4. Do you dispute Snowy Hydro's own modelling showing that electricity prices will rise as a result of Snowy 2.0? 5. Why did you mislead the PM and Energy Minister?	Written
108	SQ21-000117	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Snowy Hydro Credit rating	1. What did you mean when you said on 29 May 2019 "We are betting the whole company on Snowy 2.0"? 2. Doesn't the Sep 2020 downgrading of Snowy Hydro's credit rating by Standard & Poors signal you've lost the bet?	Written
109	SQ21-000116	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Cost estimates	1. What is the true estimate for the total cost of Snowy 2.0, including all components – planning, construction, financing, transmission and Commonwealth contributions?	Written
110	SQ21-000075	Snowy Hydro Limited	Larissa Waters	Native forest clearing	Native forest clearing At the last estimates, I asked about the extent of native forest clearance required for Snowy Hydro 2.0. Your response (QON 96) was: "Once rehabilitation activities are completed following construction, the operational footprint of Snowy 2.0 will be 99 hectares" 1. Can you clarify how many hectares will be cleared in total (including those that will be subject to rehabilitation)? 2. What replanting and rehabilitation will be required? Will biodiversity offsets be required? 3. What is the expected growth rate to replace cleared native forest?	Written