



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2020-21
Tuesday, 20 October 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.56pm.

The committee called the environment-related outcomes and agencies of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio and the emissions and energy-related outcomes and agencies of the Industry, Science, Energy and Resources portfolio, including:

- Bureau of Meteorology; Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder; Sydney Harbour Federation Trust; and Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources; Australian Renewable Energy Agency; Clean Energy Regulator; Climate Change Authority; Clean Energy Finance Corporation; and Snowy Hydro Limited.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- emissions targets and predicted temperature increases;
- Garnaut Climate Change Review's predicted impact on irrigated agriculture across the Murray Darling Basin;
- Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists' review of water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin;
- Sydney Harbour Federation Trust funding allocations;
- delayed delivery of Australia's new icebreaker RSV *Nuyina*;
- coronavirus impact on the Australian Antarctic Program;
- Australia's obligations under the Antarctic Treaty;
- planning for the future closure of the Hunter Valley Liddell Power Station;
- Energy Efficient Communities Program—Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020;
- Australia's emissions reductions target;
- Port Augusta solar thermal plant funding availability;
- implications of changes to the global warming potential of methane;
- carbon contribution of cement and the potential of carbon capture storage as a decarbonisation pathway;
- Future Fuels Package and government's plans for electric vehicles;
- particulars on Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap;
- definition of 'clean' energy;
- funding for South Australia's first hydro plant;
- Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme;
- modelling of the economic and job benefits of the National Gas Infrastructure Plan;
- potential for a new gas-fired power station at Kurri Kurri in the Hunter Valley;
- cost of transporting gas;
- Shine Energy's application and approval of a feasibility study for a future Collinsville power station under the Supporting Reliable Energy Infrastructure program;
- Marinus Link project funding;
- Australian Recycling Investment Fund and the provision of funds since previous estimates;
- Grid Reliability Fund;

- extension of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's remit;
- transition requirements for Snowy Hydro 2.0;
- Snowy Hydro's impact upon the Kosciuszko National Park;
- Australian industry content of Snowy Hydro's contracts; and
- technology transfer to Australia from Snowy Hydro's contracts.

The committee will meet at 9.00am on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, with the communications-related outcomes and agencies of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications portfolio, including: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications; Australian Communications and Media Authority; Australian Broadcasting Corporation; Special Broadcasting Service Corporation; and Office of the eSafety Commissioner.