

Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Inquiry into Australia's transition to a green energy superpower
10 February 2023

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Sun Cable

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 10 February 2023, Page 16)

QUESTION No.: 4

Senator CANAVAN: My next question that you might be able to answer is: does Sun Cable going into administration impact the major project status?

Ms Long: I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not sure on that one.

Senator CANAVAN: You might need to take this on notice as well. I can't find any, but has there been any government support or government grants provided to Sun Cable?

Ms Long: I'd have to take that on notice.

Senator CANAVAN: Thank you.

ANSWER

Major Project Status (MPS) was awarded to Sun Cable's Australia-Asia Power Link (AAPowerLink) project in July 2020 for a period of three years, in line with standard practice. Sun Cable entered into voluntary administration in January 2023, however this has not impacted the development of the AAPowerLink project and therefore has not impacted on the AAPowerLink project's Major Project Status.

Major projects can change ownership through their development. Provided this does not impact on the ability to develop a project, MPS is retained. However if, for example, a project went into receivership and could no longer progress their project, it would no longer benefit from MPS services and therefore the project would not retain MPS.

The Australian Government has provided support for Sun Cable's AAPowerLink through its Major Project Status, which makes the project eligible for extra assistance from the Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) to navigate the complex regulatory approvals required for the project.

Austrade's Global Australia Program is also supporting Sun Cable to engage with various Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, identify supply chains and future energy off takers.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including through Australia's overseas missions, is engaging with Sun Cable, and has supported it to engage with the Singapore and Indonesian Governments.

The Australian Government has not provided grant funding to Sun Cable.