

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: Proposed Japanese investments in hydrogen or critical minerals

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 10 February 2023, Page 15)

QUESTION No.: 1

Senator CANAVAN: You might want to take this on notice: do you have a list of proposed Japanese investments in hydrogen or critical minerals in Australia today? That's either investments that are ongoing or in the feasibility and planning stages. Do you have a list of those?

Mr Lawrence: I think—

Senator CANAVAN: Presumably from the hydrogen—

Mr Lawrence: We'll have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The department does not keep a list of all critical minerals investments that are ongoing or in the feasibility or planning stages. The department's Critical Minerals Office tracks the progress of critical minerals projects that are of strategic importance to the nation and the growth of Australia's critical minerals sector.

Hydrogen policy is now the remit of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

The Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) publishes the status of hydrogen and critical minerals projects as part of its annual 'Resources and Energy Major Projects' report. Hydrogen was included for the first time in the report in 2022. Projects are classified into four stages of an investment pipeline: publicly announced, feasibility, committed and completed. Earlier stages of developing mineral projects, such as identifying deposits and exploration activities, are not included. The OCE report does not include information on whether the investments are of Japanese origin. The next release of the report is scheduled for December 2023.