

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Manufacturing Working Group

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 0028

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 May 2020

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a. Which gas projects or infrastructure have been considered or discussed by the NCCC or its Manufacturing Working Group?
- b. Has the NCCC or its Manufacturing Working Group provided advice to government on issues of gas regulation, the fast-tracking of approvals, or the subsidy of gas infrastructure such as pipelines?
- c. If so, can the NCCC provide a copy of all advice provided to government on issues of gas regulation, the fast-tracking of approvals, and the subsidy of gas infrastructure such as pipelines?
- d. What evidence can the NCCC and its Manufacturing Working Group provide that no members that stand to gain personally or professionally are involved in discussions or the production of advice to government?
- e. What will inform the Manufacturing Working Group's blueprint for Australia's manufacturing industry? How will reduced emissions intensity of Australian industry be covered in this blueprint?
- f. What renewable energy projects or infrastructure have the NCCC and its Manufacturing Working Group considered?

Answer:

- a. As part of its broader economic and business advice to Government, the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (the Commission) is examining a range of projects and reforms that could assist in Australia's economic recovery. One piece of work which the Commission is undertaking is a review and update of the market and commercial conditions outlined in the 2018 West-East Pipeline Pre-feasibility Study, commissioned by the then Department of the Environment and Energy.

The Manufacturing Taskforce is also considering a range of reforms to energy markets, especially the gas market.

- b. No
- c. Not applicable.
- d. See answer to Question on Notice 0011
- e. The Manufacturing Taskforce is preparing advice for the Commission on strategies to encourage the growth of Australian manufacturing. The Taskforce is drawing upon previous reviews of Australia's manufacturing sector and lessons learned internationally to develop broad recommendations regarding the future of Australian manufacturing. These recommendations are yet to be finalised.
- f. As part of its broader economic and business advice to Government, the Commission is examining a range of reform areas that could assist in Australia's economic recovery including options for a reliable, low cost, lower emissions energy mix into the future, including gas.