

Select Committee on Energy Planning and Regulation in Australia
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Select Committee on Energy Planning and Regulation in Australia
Question No: IQ24-000173
Hearing Date: 29 October 2024
Division/Agency: National Energy Transformation Division
Topic: PLEXOS licence
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Senator Canavan asked:

Senator CANAVAN: It was reported in the Australian Financial Review and many other publications, as they closed the deal, apparently, in November last year for \$1.6 billion. How can people access that? We just heard that there's a significant cost to access this software. What is that cost, and are you aware of how people can access it and ground truth the modelling data?

Mr Duggan: I will ask one of my colleagues who utilises similar modelling software if they can provide an answer to that.

Mr McKissack: Sure. The PLEXOS software that is used to run these models is publicly available. You can purchase a licence. I don't know what the cost of that licence is; we could check.

Senator CANAVAN: You could take that on notice.

Mr McKissack: We can take it on notice, but it is publicly available software.

Answer:

PLEXOS is used by a wide variety of customers across the globe, including system operators, utilities, regulators, academics, consultants, and developers. Licence costs vary depending on the use case and the customer type, location and size.

For the energy modelling conducted by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, PLEXOS licences currently cost an average of \$71,000 per user annually.

PLEXOS is also available with lower-cost license categories. For example, we understand that Energy Exemplar offers academic licenses for both student and research use cases.

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