

Response to question taken on notice from Senator Canavan, Select Committee on Energy Planning and Regulation in Australia:

Question:

Senator CANAVAN: On what do you base your assertion that solar and wind are cheaper? Last week, AEMO admitted that, in the ISP, they don't do a whole-of-system cost of the pathway. They don't actually measure that. And so I reckon it's the CSIRO—but that's LCOE, and I'm sure that you, as engineers, would know that's a fairly limited measure. What gives you confidence at a whole-of-system level that a solar and wind dominated grid will be cheaper than alternatives? What's it based on?

Ms Walker: The academy's perspective is based on the views and advice of our fellows, who provide evidence based advice.

Senator CANAVAN: Is that written down? Is there a report on this that we could access?

Ms Walker: We've got a number of materials across our website, and we'd be very happy to provide those for you.

Senator CANAVAN: Maybe you could take it on notice.

Answer:

The Academy's perspective is based on the views and the evidence-based advice of our Fellows. ATSE Fellows consist of over 900 experts in science, technology and engineering who are elected by the Fellowship in recognition of the significant impact they have made to their sector. ATSE's Energy Forum, which currently has 160 members, provides advice and expertise on a range of energy-related issues including renewable energy generation, the energy transition, energy management, and nuclear energy.

To support the work of the committee, ATSE provides links to several reports/explainers produced by ATSE and available on our website, based on the advice and expertise of our distinguished Fellows, that discuss the energy transition and the costs of solar and wind, or other alternatives:

[Small Modular Reactors – the technology and Australian context explained](#)

[Powering the net zero transition: electricity security explained](#)

[Here and now: the state of low emissions technology in Australia](#)



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Additionally, ATSE provides links to several recent submissions to inquiries relevant to the current inquiry, also publicly available on our website:

[Submission to the draft Integrated System Plan consultation](#)

[Submission to the Electricity and Energy Sector Plan](#)