

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2015-16 – 17 February 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Defence

Topic: Fuel security

Question reference number: 4

Senator: Feeney

Type of question: asked on Friday, 17 February 2017, Hansard page 19

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 14 March 2017

Question:

Mr FEENEY: Thank you—and I should have given you fair warning at the start that I am a philistine that supports offsets. I am interested in 4.68 of the white paper where we talk about fuel security. As you would all be aware, we are the only nation in the international energy association that does not keep faith with the commitment to have 90 days net oil held in stock. What has Defence done to keep faith with that objective set out in the white paper, in terms of improving our fuel security and infrastructure? Maybe you want to take that on notice.

Ms Skinner: Yes.

Answer:

Defence considers fuel security to be part of a wider question of energy security. Underpinning Defence's approach to energy security is a risk management approach.

The Integrated Investment Plan has programmed across the decade upgrades to existing Defence fuel infrastructure and improved access to commercial fuel supplies, particularly to support operations in northern Australia.

Defence also has an active ongoing program of energy research in order to identify new energy technologies that offer warfighting or energy security advantages, including the use of bio-fuels. Defence is also investigating ways alternative and renewable power sources can contribute to base energy security, including supplementing diesel power at off-grid sites to extend the level of capability achieved from existing fuel stores.