

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 110  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Clean Energy Regulator  
**Topic:** Prosecutions  
**Hansard Page:** 86  
**Question Date:** 23 February 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

Senator MILNE: That is the next point I want to come to. I just wanted to reassure the community that the regulator does a statistically significant number of inspections and, if there are problems, they turn off any system and report it. State and territory governments are then responsible for following up. Has anyone been taken to court or prosecuted? I understand that is also a power under the act for states. Do you know if there have been any cases?

Mr Williamson: I would like to take that on notice. I am not aware of any, but we would need to check with the state and territory regulators to find out if they have taken that course of action.

**Answer:**

Each year the Clean Energy Regulator inspects a sample of photovoltaic electrical systems installed in the preceding year under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme. If during these inspections a system is found to be unsafe the inspector will, under the authority of their electrical licence, shut the system down. All unsafe systems are reported to the relevant state or territory electrical safety regulator as soon as practicable.

A recommendation to prosecute a breach of the electricity code rests with electrical safety regulator in each of the state and territories.

The Clean Energy Regulator has been advised that since the inspection program began only Victoria has commenced prosecution in relation to one case associated with an unsafe system identified by a Clean Energy Regulator inspector. As at 24 March 2015, this case has not yet been heard in court.