

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

Question No: 106
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)
Topic: Latrobe Valley Coal Fired Power Station closure
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Madigan asked:

Professor Ross Garnaut predicted in 2011 that the economy of the Latrobe Valley region in Victoria would be the hardest hit nationally from coal fired power station closure. His view was later supported by independent studies commissioned in 2012 by the Federal and Victorian governments. However, these were not coupled with any ongoing commitments at Federal or State levels of structural adjustment assistance or industry planning to ameliorate damage to that region's economy. In 2016, the Latrobe Valley is rife with rumours emanating from management levels of GDF-Suez Hazelwood power station and Energy Australia Yallourn power station of their partial and/or complete closure this year.

1. Has the Federal Department of the Environment been advised by GDF-Suez and Energy Australia when either partial or complete closure of these power stations may occur?
2. Has the Federal Department of the Environment initiated or been in contact with the Victorian government about when either partial or complete closure of these power stations may occur and, if so, with whom in the Victorian government has the Department been in contact?
3. Why are the dates of Latrobe Valley power station closure being kept secret from the Latrobe Valley community

Answer:

1. No.
2. No.
3. Both Energy Australia and GDF Suez have made public statements that they have sufficient coal to operate Yallourn power station and Hazelwood power station respectively for the next 20 years. Any announcement of a projected closure date is a matter for those companies.