

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

Question No: 210
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)
Topic: CEFC's projects breakdown
Hansard Page: 79
Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: Okay. Mr Yates, what proportion of CEFC's projects are in regional or rural areas? Is there a handy break-up without going into too much detail?

Mr Yates: I do not have a handy break-up, but I could provide that on notice for you—if we can; normally we do it on a state basis. I can provide you with a state breakdown if you would like.

Senator LUDLAM: It was more the breakdown between metro and rural and regional that I am interested in. I presume the vast majority are rural and regional.

Mr Yates: The vast majority of renewable energy projects are obviously in regional and rural areas; however, there is an enormous amount to be done in cities from an energy-efficiency perspective.

Senator LUDLAM: I will come to some specifics on that in a sec. I do not want to have it become a real headache for somebody to work it out to tender some more places, but just rough numbers for what is going on and what sort of work you are financing and supporting in metro as opposed to outside it.

Mr Yates: We will take that on notice and provide it to you.

Answer:

As at February 2016, the cumulative portfolio breakdown between projects in the metro and rural and regional areas was as follows:

	CEFC Commitment [\$AUD]	Sum of Total Funds Mobilised [\$AUD]
Metro	\$805,401,779	\$1,541,679,738
Non Metro	\$1,014,362,468	\$3,814,857,983
Grand Total	\$1,819,764,247	\$5,356,537,721

The CEFC has developed a strong portfolio with a good spread of projects covering both the geographical metro and rural and regional areas of the country.

Metro Areas

In metro areas, the CEFC has been involved in an array of projects and continues to explore new opportunities to significantly scale up investment commitments across built infrastructure,

transport, large and small scale renewable energy and energy efficiency to improve the productivity, accessibility and liveability of cities and the built environment.

The CEFC has projects in its current portfolio and future pipeline which are directly relevant to the Government's cities and built environment agenda. These include investments in local government infrastructure; efficiency upgrades to office buildings, shopping centres, and other green building projects; public transport; social and affordable housing; street lighting; and solar panels on council roofs.

Non-metro Areas

Many of the CEFC's major renewable energy projects are located in rural and regional areas in off-grid or fringe of grid locations.

CEFC co-financing for the agriculture sector has covered diverse projects, facilitated greater use of available renewable energy sources such as solar and wind and allowed the industry to save on energy costs, offset the impact of rising energy prices and increased competitiveness. As well as focusing on areas such as energy efficiency in irrigation, there is also substantial potential for bioenergy to be used as an energy source in the agricultural sector and the CEFC has recently brought to market a new Bioenergy Fund to target this market to build on the work we have already done in this sector in assisting organisations install innovative waste-to-energy projects as part of their operations and lower energy costs.