

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

Question No: 217
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Lake Bonney Wind Farm
Hansard Page: 121-122
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator BACK: I am aware of the time constraints, so I have three issues to raise very quickly, and I just hope we can get through them, or you can take some of them on notice. The first relates to the Lake Bonney Wind Farm in South Australia. The registered person named on the REC Registry is the Lake Bonney Wind Farm Pty Ltd, and the person applying for accreditation of the power station must be the owner or the operator. I wonder if you could advise or take on notice who is or has been the legal person, to use the term in legislation, who has signed the application for accreditation of the power station for stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Lake Bonney power station. Could you take that on notice?

Ms Munro: I could. I do not have that detailed information from the Registry to hand.

Senator BACK: Certainly. Also, in answering that, perhaps you could provide me with advice as to what, if any, investigation may have been undertaken to determine each time that the person qualified as a legal person under your regulations in terms of their being a fit and proper person. Could you do that?

Ms Munro: Yes. So, your specific question is about the fit and proper person test, and, again, we can certainly respond to that on notice.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to disclose the name of the person(s) who signed, on behalf of Lake Bonney Wind Power Pty Ltd, the applications for accreditation of the Lake Bonney Wind Farm power stations.

The Clean Energy Regulator is bound by the secrecy provisions of Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* in regard to the use and disclosure of information it collects. It is also bound by the *Privacy Act 1988* in regard to personal information it collects.

There were no fit and proper person investigations undertaken at the time the Lake Bonney Wind Farms were accredited.

The fit and proper person provisions were introduced into the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations on 12 December 2012, after the three Lake Bonney Wind Farms were accredited in July 2004 (stage 1), July 2007 (stage 2) and May 2010 (stage 3).

Since 12 December 2012, the Clean Energy Regulator must have regard to the matters specified in Regulation 3L of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 in determining if a person is a fit and proper person. An overview of the fit and proper person criteria is provided in the response to Question on Notice number 218 (Additional Estimates 2016).