

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

Question No: 100
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)
Topic: Solar thermal plant in Port Augusta - Status of applications
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Question Date: 9 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked:

The Federal Government committed to making solar thermal in Port Augusta the government's number one priority for its clean energy funds.

In a story in The Advertiser on May 18, 2016 when asked by The Advertiser if the Coalition would fund the solar thermal plant through its \$1 billion clean energy loans scheme, then Environment Minister Greg Hunt said: "In our case, yes."

"We have set out when we laid out the Clean Energy Innovation Fund that our number one priority in Australia would be a comprehensive solar thermal plant in Port Augusta," he said.

What is the status of the applications made for funding for solar thermal in Port Augusta?

Answer:

- The Department is aware of at least two project proponents that have approached ARENA and/or the Clean Energy Finance Corporation for financial support for a solar thermal plant in Port Augusta.
- On 30 March, the Government advised it would accelerate and secure delivery of a solar thermal or other large-scale solar project in Port Augusta through a formal call for proposals through ARENA and the CEFC and by making a Commonwealth concessional equity loan of up to \$110 million available at a three per cent interest rate, which is the bond rate plus one per cent.