

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 131
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)
Topic: Power generators
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 8 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

If Australian hydrocarbon (fossil fuel) power generators currently meet pollution standards covering particulates and aerosols, are they then "clean" by current standards?

Answer:

Carbon dioxide is not considered under the current National Environmental Protection Measures, including Air Toxins, Ambient Air Quality and National Pollutant Inventory.

The Government accepts the science of climate change and takes its advice on climate change, the risks posed and projections of future impacts primarily from our national science agencies: the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO. The Bureau and CSIRO cooperate with many other scientific and research institutions from around the world.

The advice is that there is overwhelming scientific evidence the climate is changing due to human caused emissions of greenhouse gases, including the emissions from fossil fuel power generators. These findings are informed by long term observations of air temperatures, measurements of ocean temperatures, and changes to glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice.

This advice aligns with information provided by respected national and international science organisations. These include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Antarctic Division, the World Meteorological Organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).