

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 158
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Program: Energy Division (ED)
Topic: Projected cost of new transmission
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Question Date: 14 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

What is the projected cost of new transmission infrastructure that would be needed by 2020 to maintain stability in the NEM given the mandated level of renewable energy by that time?

Answer:

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) prepares the National Transmission Network Development Plan (NTNDP) to provide an independent, strategic assessment of an appropriate course for efficient transmission grid development in the National Electricity Market (NEM) over a 20 year timeframe.

The most recent NTNDP, published in December 2016, identified a number of potential transmission network investments that would provide benefits in the NEM by improving reliability and allowing the most efficient dispatch of generation in the market. However it does not specify the cost of transmission infrastructure needed to meet the Renewable Energy Target (RET).