

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

**Question No:** 99  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Program:** International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)  
**Topic:** Solar thermal plant in Port Augusta - Action taken  
**Hansard Page:** -  
**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 action has been taken in relation to that commitment?

**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.