

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

Question No: 281
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Minister
Programme: Minister
Topic: Million Rooftops Program - lobbying
Hansard Page: 84
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: As long as you are aware that you are sharing the room with people who have nothing like your sense of confidence, that is all. But that is good and that is at odds with some of the things that I had been hearing. So, you can go back and ask for more money. Briefly, back on solar rooftops, is it the case that the conventional fossil generators lobbied the then opposition to abandon the million rooftops program? Were advances made by, effectively, competitors to private solar generators, to drop that initiative?

Senator Birmingham: Not that I am aware of.

Senator LUDLAM: Do you want to take that on notice, Senator Birmingham?

Senator Birmingham: It depends on—

Senator LUDLAM: They might not have been lobbying you.

Senator Birmingham: Do you want to know if the minister was lobbied? I can take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: Yes. Not you personally, but yes the minister.

Senator Birmingham: Or the then shadow minister?

Senator LUDLAM: The shadow minister, or since the election I guess. It was a policy that you took to the election that has been dropped; I would like to know who was part of that decision making process.

Senator Birmingham: I can take that on notice as it relates to Mr Hunt. Obviously, I do not want to go and poll every member of the government, but I will take that on notice as it relates to Mr Hunt.

Answer:

The decision making process regarding solar programmes was in the context of the 2014-15 Budget processes.