

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

Question No: 157
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)
Topic: Power generators
Hansard Page: 126
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: All right. In terms of the pre-2011 regulations, are there any power generators that are operating under the transitional arrangements in the 2011 legislation—operating under the regs that existed?

Mr Archer: Yes. I would actually have to take that question on notice. I am not aware that there are, but to be certain I need to take that on notice.

Senator RICE: If you could—and how many, what they are, how much power they are generating. In particular, do you know whether there are any processes of auditing them for whether they complied with the conditions under those regulations?

Mr Archer: I guess that sort of relates to the question of whether there are any. I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator advises that 19 power stations were accredited for wood waste under the previous regulation 8 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001* which allowed for the use of native forest wood waste.

Together, these power stations generated a total of 129 063 MWh of eligible electricity in 2013 (the figure for 2014 has not yet been finalised). This represents around 1 per cent of total eligible electricity from power stations under the RET scheme in 2013. A list of accredited power stations is available here: <https://www.rec-registry.gov.au/rec-registry/app/public/power-station-register>.

The Clean Energy Regulator has information on the compliance of RET-accredited power stations with Commonwealth, state, territory and local planning and approval requirements. Proponents of power stations accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (the Act) are asked to confirm their compliance at the time of creating large-scale generation certificates through the 'standing notice' and when they submit their annual Electricity Generation Return.

The transitional arrangement allows for power stations to use the previous definition (pre 2011) of wood waste that allows for native forest wood waste as specified in regulation 8. Compliance with the transitional arrangement would mean that they are using a fuel source that has been approved by the Clean Energy Regulator. To approve wood waste as a fuel source, a power station must follow the wood waste guidelines and assessment. The proponents of the power station must then keep an auditable documentation trail from where the waste originated source to the power station to prove that they are using an approved wood waste source. This includes details such as biomass truck registration numbers, weighbridge dockets and calorific value of the fuels used.