

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

**Question No:** 159  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Programme:** Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)  
**Topic:** Qualifications of Board Members - Climate Change Authority  
**Hansard Page:** 79  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

**Senator WATERS:** Okay, I think that is code for something that I do not understand, but it sounds very important. Are you aware of whether the suggestions that have been made by particularly Mr Palmer are credible, science based folk?

**Mr Parker:** No, I am not aware. I do not have anything to add to the answer by the assistant minister.

**Senator WATERS:** Perhaps the minister can take on notice that part of the question of the respective qualifications?

**Senator Birmingham:** I can take it on notice, but I do not know that we will want to be providing a commentary on the characteristics of any suggestions that have been made to us as to whether they are credible or otherwise. The government will make its decision on appointments.

**Senator WATERS:** Simply their qualifications would suffice. They will probably answer that question. Thanks, minister. The authority has previously described the five per cent emissions reduction target as totally inadequate and as leaving an unfair burden on future governments, who will have to achieve deeper and more disruptive cuts, a view that I share. Is there any consultation between the authority and the government of the day in setting targets?

**Answer:**

The Government is considering suitably qualified and experienced candidates for appointment to the Board of the Climate Change Authority. Appointments will be made in accordance with the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011*, which provides that appointees must have “substantial experience or knowledge” as well as “significant standing” in at least one of a range of relevant fields.