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

Question No: 168

Hearing: Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 2

Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)

Topic: NGGI data

Hansard Page:

Question Date:

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

The NGGI data showed that emissions from electricity rose by 6 per cent unadjusted, or 1.3 per cent trend. Can you explain why this may be the case, and how it differs from previous quarters?

Answer:

Monthly and quarterly emission outcomes can be volatile based on temperature, weather and operational conditions at power stations. There are a multitude of factors affecting outcomes from the electricity market at any point in time. For example,

- Cooler weather conditions were very important in driving increased electricity demand in July and August 2014 – average temperatures were 1.3 degrees cooler than the same period in 2013.
- Wind generation was unexpectedly low in August – the lowest since 2011 – because the weather across southern Australia was much less windy than the average for that month.

In the September 2014 quarter, the primary driver of increased emissions from electricity was a reduction in hydroelectric generation, which declined 27 per cent in the September quarter 2014 compared to the same quarter in 2013.