

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

Question No: 198
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Native wood waste biomass - previous legislation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

How many registered power stations are there currently under the previous RET rules that utilise native wood waste biomass as an eligible renewable resource? How many certificates have been generated by these participant(s)? How many certificates in total have been generated for native wood waste biomass?

Answer:

There are 28 power stations accredited under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* for the fuel source wood waste. Of these, 16 power stations were accredited for wood waste under the previous regulation 8 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001* (the Regulations) which allowed for the use of native forest biomass. There are 16 power stations which have created Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) and are eligible to use native forest wood waste under the transitional arrangements outlined in the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Regulations 2011* (No. 5).

The transitional arrangements allow power stations to maintain the original definition of wood waste which includes native forest biomass as a subcategory of wood waste under Regulation 8(3)(e) and does not specifically exclude native forest biomass from the other subcategories of wood waste. These transitional arrangements do not require the power station operators to advise the Clean Energy Regulator where native forest biomass is used to create LGCs.

To date there is only one power station accredited to utilise native forest wood waste. This power station created one LGC from 'native forest wood waste' that falls under Regulation 8(1)(e) of the original Regulations.

Between 2001 and May 2015 the 16 power stations have created 1,831,109 LGCs from other subcategories of wood waste which do not specifically exclude native forest biomass.

Other subcategories of wood waste include:

- A manufactured wood product or a by-product from a manufacturing process;
- Waste products from the construction of buildings or furniture; and
- Sawmill residue.

The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to advise how many of the 1,831,109 LGCs may have been created using native forest wood waste as the current law does not require that detail to be provided.

However, the Clean Energy Regulator can confirm that only one LGC has been created by the sole power station specifically accredited for the use of native forest wood waste biomass.