

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice

Environment portfolio

Question No: 199
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Native wood waste biomass - current legislation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

How many registered power stations are there under current RET rules that utilise non-native wood waste biomass as an eligible renewable resource? How many certificates have been generated by this participant(s)? How many certificates in total have been generated for non-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 power stations:

- One is accredited for native forest biomass as a subcategory of wood waste under Regulation 8(3)(e) of the original Regulation 8 of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations);
- 16 power stations are eligible to use the original definition of wood waste which does not specifically exclude native forest biomass from the other subcategories of wood waste; and
- 11 are accredited for wood waste under the current Regulation 8 of the Regulations which exclude the use of native forest biomass from 3 of the 4 subcategories of wood waste.

Between 2001 and May 2015, 1,832,523 Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs) have been created for the fuel source wood waste for subcategories other than Regulation 8(3)(e) of the original Regulations (2001-2011).

Other subcategories of wood waste include:

- Biomass produced from non-native environmental weed species;
- A manufactured wood product or a by-product from a manufacturing process;
- Waste products from the construction of buildings or furniture; and
- Sawmill residue.

These subcategories do not exclude use of native forest wood waste for power stations eligible under the transitional arrangements outlined in the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 5). However, the Clean Energy Regulator does not collect information about the percentage of non-native and native wood waste in these subcategories.