



Australian Government

Australian Renewable
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31 May 2017

Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Emailed to: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms McDonald,

RE: Senate Estimates - correction of the record

On 23 May 2017, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) appeared before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's 2017-18 Budget Estimates hearings, under the Environment and Energy Portfolio.

I appeared before the Committee as an official witness in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of ARENA. I would like to provide clarification regarding my response to questions from Senator Carr, regarding the funding application approval process for Snowy Hydro Limited's feasibility study into the potential expansion of the Snowy Scheme's pumped hydro storage capability. On page 37 of the Proof Committee Hansard it states:

Senator Kim Carr: You went to the Snowy in Cooma, did you?

Mr Kay: No, the Snowy office in Sydney.

Senator Kim Carr: In Sydney. And they showed you what?

Mr Kay: We had discussions with them about what it was that we are proposing to do. We said yes in terms of the expansion. We said, 'Yes, that seems interesting; can you put a full application in,' and they put the full application in.

Senator Kim Carr: So, on the basis of that conversation, \$500,000 was granted, on your authority. Is that the basis?

Mr Frischknecht: Yes, but there was a formal application and assessment process, including our advisory panel. We had an expert adviser look at-

Senator Kim Carr: So, on their recommendation, you have signed off on that \$500,000, have you?

Mr Frischknecht: The advisory panel gets involved, yes.

Senator Kim Carr: You have signed off on that, on the basis of the recommendation of the advisory panel?

Mr Frischknecht: Yes.

Clarification

Snowy Hydro Limited submitted its Application under ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program. The Application consisted of a series of documents that were assessed by ARENA in accordance with the guidelines for this program.

ARENA's Knowledge Sharing Framework for all pumped hydro energy storage project applications was developed by an expert member of the ARENA Advisory Panel together with ARENA staff. The Snowy Hydro Limited Application was reviewed against this framework, but was not separately assessed by the ARENA Advisory Panel.

If you have any questions regarding this clarification, please contact me at

Yours sincerely,

Ivor Frischknecht
Chief Executive Officer