

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

Question No: 124
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Coal blending
Hansard Page: 73
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Do we know whether coal blending would result in low estimates of actual admissions, just as a matter of physics?

Mr McNee: I would not know that. I would have to take that on notice and see if we have any information in relation to the work that we do.

Answer:

As noted in the National Pollutant Inventory emission estimation technique manuals, the volume and nature of emissions from combustion of coal differ depending on fuel composition, fuel consumption, combustion chamber design and operation and pollution control devices used.

The chemical composition of coal will have an impact on emissions to air, in particular sulfur dioxide emissions.

Coal blending may be used at coal power stations to ensure compliance with state environment protection licence conditions, including as a legitimate means of controlling sulfur dioxide emissions.