

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 134
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)
Topic: Renewable Energy Target
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Roberts asked:

Senator ROBERTS: Could you tell me, going back to the introduction of the Renewable Energy Target Scheme—I know it preceded this department and this government, in 2013—what was the target set by John Howard's government for the Renewable Energy Target? My understanding is that it was 20 per cent. Is that correct?

Mr Archer: No. The 20 per cent target came into being under a Labor government. Previously, when the Renewable Energy Target was first introduced, it was a much lower target. I will have to take that on notice, but it was a far more modest figure.

Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Was it much lower than 20?

Mr Archer: Yes.

Answer:

The original Mandatory Renewable Energy Target came into force in April 2001 under the Howard government. The target for this scheme was 9,500 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2010. The target represented an increase of 2 per cent in the share of renewables in Australia's electricity mix in 2010 based on projections made in 2000. The share of renewables was around 10½ per cent in 2000.

The ALP proposed a 20 per cent by 2020 renewable energy target during the 2007 election campaign. This policy was legislated in 2009 as a target of 45,000 GWh. In 2010 the legislation was amended to split the Renewable Energy Target scheme into a large-scale scheme and a small-scale scheme. The Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) for 2020 was legislated at 41,000 GWh, with Small-scale renewables expected at the time to contribute 4,000 GWh in that year.