

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 195  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Program:** ARENA  
**Topic:** Briefing to the Government  
**Hansard Page:** 19  
**Question Date:** 23 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Chisholm asked:**

Senator CHISHOLM: The government on 15 March announced its intention to invest \$2 billion into an upgrade of storage capacity the Snowy Hydro scheme. Did you provide any briefing to the government regarding such an upgrade prior to 15 March? If so, when was this advice provided and what was its nature?

Mr Frischknecht: We certainly were in close discussions with the government prior to that date and did provide briefing. The exact nature of it I will take on notice. But a number of documents were provided.

**Answer:**

On 7 March 2017 ARENA provided to the Department of the Environment and Energy a copy of the draft documentation received from Snowy Hydro on the prospective feasibility study.

On 8 March 2017 ARENA provided a briefing note to the Department of the Environment and Energy on the Snowy Hydro prospective feasibility study (per draft documents received by ARENA). This included a comparison to other PHES projects being considered by ARENA (Energy Australia Cultana and Genex Power).

ARENA had provided briefing notes to the Department on 10 March 2017 providing a high level summary of existing pumped hydro energy storage systems in Australia.