

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

**Question No:** 203  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Program:** ARENA  
**Topic:** Electrical vehicles  
**Hansard Page:** 33  
**Question Date:** 23 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Rice, Janet asked:**

Senator RICE: I want to find out more about the \$390,000 grant for encouraging the uptake of electrical vehicles that was announced yesterday by Minister Frydenberg. Who is the grant going to? What is it going to be used for?

Mr Frischknecht: In this particular case—and this is part of our helping renewables find additional markets and changing the transport fleet to renewable energy, which is most easily achieved by electrification—the grant is going to the group called ClimateWorks who have done a lot of work on decarbonisation of the economy. This is a particular stream of work that they are doing around identifying barriers and sharing knowledge on those barriers on the uptake to EVs.

Senator RICE: Have you done work at the moment as to what the barriers are? How is that going to be further progressed by the work that ClimateWorks is doing?

Mr Frischknecht: I can give you a high-level overview, but to give you more details we will take that on notice. There has been some work identifying what the barriers are. There has been some work put together with the coalition at the EV Council—some members have been involved in doing some of the work. One of the further phases is to try to educate various private-sector participants and government entities as to what some of the potential solutions to some those barriers are.

**Answer:**

ARENA provided funding in 2014 for ClimateWorks, in partnership with the ANU, CSIRO and the Centre of Policy Studies at Victoria University, to undertake new modelling into the role of renewable energy technologies and biofuels in decarbonising Australia's economy. The 'Pathways to Deep Decarbonisation in 2050' report, found that Australia can achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and live within its recommended carbon budget, using technologies that exist today, while maintaining economic prosperity. The report found that the decarbonisation of energy systems in Australia relies on four pillars: ambitious energy efficiency; low carbon electricity; electrification and fuel switching; and reducing non-energy emissions in industry and agriculture.

In 2016, additional funding of up to \$390,000 was approved for ClimateWorks to expand on the knowledge sharing activities of the first report, particularly in relation to renewables and electrification. ClimateWorks will also delve deeper into the opportunities electrification presents, focussing on electric vehicles as a critical component of the broader decarbonisation story.