

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

Question No: 208
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: ARENA
Topic: Contact with Snowy Hydro
Hansard Page: 38
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Carr asked:

Senator KIM CARR: When did you report to the minister about the approach from the Snowy Hydro authority—obviously, after the 24th?

Mr Frischknecht: Yes, it would have been some time in the period between the 24th and the 15th.

Senator KIM CARR: My point is: was the original contact from the Snowy Mountains authority or from the minister's office?

Mr Frischknecht: I do not recall, but as far as I know it was from the Snowy Mountains authority.

Mr Kay: Yes. I would not have been contacted—

Senator KIM CARR: Would you like to take that on notice?

Mr Kay: Yes. I would not have been contacted by the minister's office before the meeting.

Answer:

ARENA met with Snowy Hydro representatives on 24 February 2017 and 2 March 2017 (both at Snowy Hydro Sydney offices) on the proposed project as well as to outline the ARENA funding process.

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.