

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 38
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Program: Policy Analysis and Implementation (PAAI)
Topic: Governance
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 08 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Roberts asked:

Is the burden-of-proof for environment & energy policies on the Department, others within the Government or others outside? In other words, who initiates policies? Is it that the usual case that the Minister just directs the Department to document his/her policies?

Answer:

The Cabinet, consisting of senior Ministers presided over by the Prime Minister, is the Government's pre-eminent policy-making body. Major policy and legislative proposals are decided by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet decision-making, including the initiation of policies and the determination of policy needs, is informed by expert advice from the Public Service and, where appropriate, this includes advice from the Department of the Environment and Energy.

In accordance with the Australian Public Service Values, the Department is apolitical and provides the Government with advice that is frank, honest, timely and based on the best available evidence.

This involves analysis of all available options and appropriate consultation across all sectors such as government, research, industry and the general community.