

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

Question No: 196
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: AUDITS OF POWER STATIONS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 28 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Madigan asked:

Has the Clean Energy Regulator conducted an audit of all participating power stations to ascertain whether they have met all required approvals?

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator undertakes risk-based compliance audits of accredited power stations on an annual basis (see also Question on Notice number 204, Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014).

All power stations accredited by the Clean Energy Regulator were found to be compliant with Commonwealth, state, territory and local government regulations at the time accreditation was granted. As part of the accreditation process, the Clean Energy Regulator obtains information from the relevant state/territory authority to ensure that all necessary approvals for the power station have been issued and are being met at the time of the accreditation decision. It is a matter for the relevant state/territory to oversee and enforce its own laws, such as planning permits and noise limits. The Clean Energy Regulator is only empowered to administer relevant Commonwealth laws (that is, to ensure that a wind farm operator complies with its responsibilities under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*).

Please see also Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 Questions 197 and 209.