

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

Question No: 213
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: PUBLICATION OF NGER DATA
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

Is all of the data gathered by the NGER publicly available? If not, why not? If so, where can it be accessed?

Answer:

Section 24 of the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (the NGER Act) outlines the information that the Clean Energy Regulator must publish on its website by 28 February for the previous financial year. The data made publicly available under Section 24 of the NGER Act is a subset of the total information reported by corporations to the Clean Energy Regulator under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) scheme.

NGER data which has been published on the Clean Energy Regulator's website includes:

- NGER Publication report – for corporations that meet the publishing threshold of 50 kilotonnes of total greenhouse gas emissions, the total scope 1 emissions, the total of scope 2 emissions and the net energy consumed.
- NGER LTC holders Report and NGER RTC Holders Report – for Reporting Transfer Certificate (RTC) holders and Liability Transfer Certificate (LTC) holders, the total of scope 1 emissions, the total of scope 2 emissions and the net energy consumed.
- NGER GreenPower and RECs Report – Information disclosed voluntarily by registered corporations relating to GreenPower purchases and voluntarily surrendered Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
- NGER Designated Electricity Generators Report – Greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1 and scope 2) and electricity production data for designated generation facilities where the principal activity is electricity generation and where the facility is not part of a vertically-integrated production process.

Information gathered by the Clean Energy Regulator from 2 April 2012 onwards, under any of the Acts it administers and associated regulations, is protected information and its disclosure is governed by the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* (the CER Act) and NGER Act.

Secrecy provisions under Part 4 of the NGER Act (Section 23) and Part 3 (Section 43) of the CER Act set out restrictions on the disclosure of data obtained under the CER and NGER Act. Other than where specified by the NGER Act, the Clean Energy Regulator is prohibited from publishing disaggregated data that discloses information about specific corporations.

Under the CER and NGER Acts, protected NGER information is however able to be disclosed to a range of entities. The Clean Energy Regulator discloses data reported under the NGER Act to government agencies that are responsible for administering a programme or collecting statistics relating to greenhouse gas emissions, energy production or energy consumption.

The NGER data is used by these agencies as a key input into information on emissions and energy which is itself publicly available. For example, NGER data collected by the Clean Energy Regulator underpins information on Australia's greenhouse emissions that is published in the National Inventory by the Department of the Environment and on energy that is published by the Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics in Australia's Energy Statistics.

The NGER publication calendar provides a list of publications released by Australian government agencies each year that utilise NGER data. The calendar can be accessed via the Clean Energy Regulator's website at: www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/National-Greenhouse-and-Energy-Reporting/published-information/Pages/Publications-calendar.aspx

The Clean Energy Regulator is able to disclose data reported under the NGER Act to states and territories, to reduce duplication of similar reporting programs. The Clean Energy Regulator has established Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with several Commonwealth agencies, all states and the Australian Capital Territory to share NGER data.

Published NGER data made publicly available by the Clean Energy Regulator can be accessed through the Clean Energy Regulator's website at: www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/National-Greenhouse-and-Energy-Reporting/published-information/Pages/default.aspx.

The data is also accessible from reports made publicly available through the Clean Energy Regulator's online Business Intelligence Hub (<https://bi-hub.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/BiHub/PublicReportList>).