

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

Question No: 217
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: SUSPENSION OF ACCREDITATION
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

I refer to the statement made by Mr Purvis-Smith, at Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing of 20 October 2014:

“Our legislation, section 30E of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act says that the regulator may suspend where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a wind farm, in this case, is operating in contravention of the law.”

This statement appears to be limited to the discretion to suspend accreditation that arises under s30E(3), does the CER agree? The statement does not appear to bear any reference to the discretion to suspend accreditation that arises under s30E(5), does the CER agree?

Answer:

Yes. The statement was made by Mr Purvis-Smith (General Counsel, Clean Energy Regulator) at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 20 October 2014 in response to a question from Senator Madigan regarding the Waubra Wind Farm. The statement was limited to the discretion to suspend the accreditation of an accredited power station in subsection 30E(3) of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*. Subsection 30E(5) is not relevant to the facts as they are known to the Clean Energy Regulator.

Please see also Additional Budget Estimates 2014 Question 80, and Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 Questions 218 and 219.