Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice **Environment portfolio**

Question No: 119

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Clean Energy Regulator

Topic: Use of native forest biomass by renewable energy power stations

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Question Date: 19 October

Question Type: Written

Mr Williamson: We have been conducting a survey with those power stations that, through the transitional provisions, are potentially able to. We do not have all those survey results back yet. Some are keeping their options open in some of the survey results; some have said a flat "no". To back up Ms Munro's comments, at this stage we are not seeing any new demand.

Senator WATERS: Could you take on notice for me which ones have said a flat "no" and which ones have kept their options open, if you are able to reveal that information to us. Could I just check which list Hazelwood in particular is on?

Mr Williamson: I do not believe we have had a response yet on that one.

Answer:

The Clean Energy Regulator publishes details of power station accreditation and Large-scale Generation Certificate (LGC) validation in the REC Registry (www.rec-registry.gov.au).

The REC Registry discloses that there are 28 wood waste accredited power stations as at 16 November 2015.

In September 2015, the Clean Energy Regulator contacted these 28 wood waste accredited power stations via a questionnaire. The questionnaire sought information about the amount of wood waste that the power station had used in 2014-15 and whether they had any plans to use native forest wood waste in the future. The Clean Energy Regulator asked these power stations to respond to the survey by mid October 2015.

Fourteen responses have been received by the Clean Energy Regulator, of which five have indicated future use of wood waste that may contain biomass derived from native forest wood waste.

The full list of power stations surveyed by the Clean Energy Regulator is listed at Table 1:

Table 1.

Table 1.		
Power station applicant name	Power station name	State
Macquarie Generation	Bayswater Power Station	NSW
Big River Timbers Pty Ltd	Big River Timbers ww Grafton	NSW
Cape Byron Management Pty Ltd	Broadwater Mill	NSW
Cape Byron Management Pty Ltd	Condong Sugar Mill	NSW
Mackay Sugar Limited	Farleigh Mill	QLD
NRG Gladstone Operating Services Pty Ltd	Gladstone Power Station	QLD
Wescor Bioenergy Pty Ltd T/A Wescor Electrical	Gympie Timber Wood Waste Power Station 1 - QLD	QLD
NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative Limited	Harwood Mill	NSW
Australian Power Partners B V and Others	Hazelwood	VIC
ISIS Central Sugar Mill Co Ltd	Isis Central Sugar Mill	QLD
Macquarie Generation	Liddell Power Station	NSW
Mackay Sugar Limited	Marian Mill	QLD
The Maryborough Sugar Factory Limited	Maryborough Sugar Factory	QLD
Bundaberg Sugar Ltd	Millaquin Sugar Mill	QLD
Mackay Sugar Limited	Mossman Mill	QLD
Carter Holt Harvey Wood Products Australia Pty Limited	Mt Gambier	SA
EnergyAustralia NSW Pty Ltd	Mt Piper Power Station	NSW
Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation	Muja	WA
Mackay Sugar Limited	Racecourse Mill	QLD
GT-Energy Technologies Pty Ltd	Reid Bros WW Biomass Generator - VIC	VIC
FPC 30 Limited	Rocky Point Sugar Mill	QLD
Green Pacific Energy Limited	Stapylton	QLD
Forestry Tasmania	Tahune Woodgas-WW-TAS	TAS
Delta Electricity	Vales Point	NSW
Visy Paper Pty Limited	Visy Paper Gibson Island Biomass - QLD	QLD
Visy Pulp and Paper Pty Ltd	Visy Pulp and Paper	NSW
Visy Paper Pty Limited	Visy WW Biomass Generator No 1 - VIC	VIC
EnergyAustralia NSW Pty Ltd	Wallerawang Power Station	NSW

Source: www.rec-registry.gov.au/rec-registry/app/public/power-station-application-register

A summary of responses to the questionnaire is at Table 2:

Table 2.

Category	Responses
Intending to use native forest wood waste	5
Not intending to use native forest wood waste	9
No response	14

Further information collected through that questionnaire is protected information within the meaning the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011*. The Clean Energy Regulator would not ordinarily disclose information of this kind.

However, the publicly available information in the REC Registry discloses that Hazelwood power station has never created any LGCs under the Renewable Energy Target scheme since its accreditation in 2005.