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

Question No:	120
Hearing:	Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome:	Agency
Programme:	Clean Energy Regulator
Topic:	Rooftop Solar Systems
Hansard Page:	N/A
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Question Type:	Written

Senator BACK: Do you have a figure or some approximation of how many households in Australia have rooftop solar systems?

Ms Munro: I think my colleague Mr Williamson probably has that number at his fingertips.

Mr Williamson: It is just under 1.5 million systems, currently, in terms of solar PV. Hot water systems are on top of that.

Senator BACK: Hot water systems are on top of that?

Mr Williamson: Correct.

Senator BACK: What percentage of Australian households does that 1.5 million translate to?

Mr Williamson: I am not quite sure what that percentage is, but we can certainly check that. It is quite a high penetration, though.

Senator BACK: Thank you very much.

Answer:

As at 5 November 2015, there were approximately 1.5 million solar photovoltaic (PV) systems under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme. Of those, 1,453,500 systems have been claimed with a kilowatt (kW) capacity of up to 10kW (generally household installations) and 24,520 systems between 10 and 100kW (generally commercial installations).

The Clean Energy Regulator does not report solar PV figures as a percentage of total households within Australia, however on 29 September 2015 the Energy Supply Association of Australia published a report titled "Renewable Energy in Australia" which stated, "by 2015 more than one in seven Australian households had installed solar PV. This is a 15 per cent penetration rate across all Australian households." When compared to previous figures released in 2014 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, stating 14 per cent penetration, 15 per cent appears to be a reasonable current approximation of the percentage of Australian households with solar PV installed.