

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

Question No: 72
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Office of Climate Change and Renewables Innovation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. The Environment Minister has pulled the key renewables and climate change bodies in the Environment Department into one megaoffice. What will be the impacts on the Regulator from this decision?
2. What costs from this process does the Clean Energy Regulator expect to bear, if any?
3. What does this change mean for employees?
4. Will anyone lose their job?
5. How is this new office structured?
6. How will the functions and processes of the Clean Energy Regulator change in this new office?

Answer:

1. At this stage it is anticipated there will be no impacts on the Clean Energy Regulator. The creation of the office leaves the governance and employment arrangements of the Regulator unchanged. It reinforces the existing working relationships between the Clean Energy Regulator and the Department, Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator bears no additional cost as a consequence of his decision.
3. There is no impact on Clean Energy Regulator staff as a result of the decision.
4. No.
5. The Office of Climate Change and Renewables Innovation brings together the work of the Clean Energy Regulator, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, the Climate Change Authority and climate change and renewable energy policy functions within the Department.

The Office has been established to better integrate the Government's policies and programs for reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy. The Office also has a new focus on promoting technology and innovation.

These agencies continue to operate with the same level of independence as they each did previously.

6. The functions and processes of the Clean Energy Regulator will not change.