

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

Question No: 181
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: Domestic Emissions Reduction Division (DERD)
Topic: 2017 Review
Hansard Page: 11
Question Date: 21 October 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: Okay, thank you. Can I ask now about the 2017 review—but firstly the aspect of the NEO in that review. We have obviously got a bill before the House to amend the NEO in the manner described earlier. Will that bill and that issue be considered as part of the 2017 review?

Dr de Brouwer: We will take that one on notice a bit, ...

Answer:

The Government has no plans to amend the NEO.

The COAG Energy Council commissioned Dr Michael Vertigan AC to lead the Review of Governance Arrangements for Australian Energy Markets. The Review examined this issue and concluded:

“.. pursuit of the long-term interests of consumers does not in any way imply that other policy objectives are unimportant and to be set aside or given low priority. The Panel’s view is simply that other objectives are better pursued by other means, not by weakening the focus on a simple, clear and shared objective, which the introduction of multiple objectives would very likely do.”