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

| Question No: | 192 | |
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| Hearing: | Supplementary Budget Estimates | |
| Outcome: | Outcome 2 | |
| Program: | International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID) | |
| Topic: | Carbon Emissions National Target | |
| Hansard Page: | 19-20 | |
| Question Date: | 21 October 2016 | |
| Question Type: | Spoken | |

Senator Waters, Larissa asked:

Senator WATERS: Yes, I know. But you count the carbon emissions to our national targets. That is my question.

Ms Wilson: We do, and that is through the national inventory.

Mr Archer: I am not sure if you are focusing on the projections or on the—

Senator WATERS: Both. What effect does it have on the carryover and what effect does it have on the projections to 2020?

Mr Archer: To provide detailed numbers, I think we would need to take that on notice.

Answer:

Effects on carryover

The term 'carryover' relates to the amount of Kyoto units in the Government's national registry that reflects the Government's overachievement of its emission reduction commitment for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol - the years 2008-12.

The estimated carryover from the first commitment period was 131 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This is about 3 per cent of the estimated allowance for the second commitment period.

The carryover calculation from the first commitment period - that finished at the end of 2012 - pre-dates those changes to Queensland's land clearing regulations that took effect in 2013. Consequently, there is no impact on the calculation of the carryover itself from emissions from land clearing in 2013 or in later years.

Effects on projected emissions

The effects of changes to land clearing laws in Queensland in 2013 have been factored into the projected emissions to 2020, although no projections are published at the state level. The latest published projections for emissions from deforestation for Australia as a whole are recorded in Table 1 below.

Note that the Department expects the estimates for projected emissions to be updated shortly.

Table 1: Emissions from Deforestation, Australia 2015-2020, MtCO₂-e

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 42.0 | 50.2 | 50.9 | 49.7 | 48.6 | 47.0 |