

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

Question No: 260
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 5
Program: Energy Division (ED)
Topic: National Energy Productivity Target (NEPT)
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Chisholm, Anthony asked:

1. The Government has set a National Energy Productivity Target of 40 per cent between now and 2030. This falls very short of doubling energy productivity which is fully supported by key business peak bodies such as the BCA, ACCI and AIG. What specific measures are being implemented to meet this target?
2. Are there any plans to increase to a more meaningful, effective target?

Answer:

1. The National Energy Productivity Plan (the Plan) was agreed by the COAG Energy Council in December 2015 to deliver on the Australian Government's National Energy Productivity Target. It brings together an initial work plan of 34 measures (new and existing), from across the Energy Council's work program, as well as from the Commonwealth and industry.

The Plan has progressed rapidly in its first year. Specific achievements include:

- Introduction of a Clean Energy Innovation Fund and expansion of the role of Australian Renewable Energy Agency, which will have around \$1 billion in funding.
- Expansion of the Commercial Building Disclosure program, which will lead to an estimated \$50 million in new energy savings, and about 3.5 million tonnes of carbon abatement over five years.
- The Council's new prioritisation plan to accelerate the Equipment Energy Efficiency program through increased energy efficiency of certain appliances. The first two new standards have already been released for consultation, covering air conditioners and refrigerated cabinets. This plan will save consumers hundreds of dollars a year. For example:
 - Choosing an 8 star high efficiency swimming pool pump over a low efficiency 2 star pump could save \$540 a year in running costs.
 - Providing consumers with information about which air conditioner is most appropriate for their climate could save a consumer in Western Sydney \$240 a year.
 - Replacing inefficient lighting with LEDs could save a typical household \$200 to \$300 a year.

- \$2 million grant to Energy Consumers Australia to lead research on practical ways to make household energy choices easier, including measures to support vulnerable consumers.

Industry-led work is also underway, with the Doubling Australia's Energy Productivity (2xEP) Steering Committee publishing five collaborative roadmaps for different sectors: manufacturing, agriculture, mining, built environment, and passenger transport sectors.

2. There are no plans to increase the target of a 40 per cent improvement in energy productivity by 2030.