

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 297
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: ARENA
Topic: ARENA Employee Status
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 28 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Back, Chris asked:

1. Will you please confirm whether ARENA has employed a Mr Ketan Yoshi, who was formerly employed by Infigen Energy?
2. Is ARENA aware that the above named person has repeatedly attacked reputable persons who have advocated for the Government's research into the health impact of wind turbines, including myself and other Committee members, on his twitter account prior to being employed by ARENA and then has continued to do so since becoming employed as a public servant?
3. If so, does ARENA consider this acceptable behaviour for him and your other staff?
4. If not what action has been taken or will be taken?

Answer:

1. Ketan Joshi (not Yoshi) is not an employee of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency. Mr Joshi does however provide consulting services to the Agency and has done so since May 2016.
2. ARENA is not aware of any evidence that Mr Joshi has engaged in disrespectful or unprofessional behaviour while engaging in public conversations about renewable energy issues.

Despite not being an employee of ARENA or a member of the Australian Public Service, the Agency is satisfied to the best of its knowledge that, during the period in which he has provided consulting services to ARENA, Mr Joshi has always complied with the Public Service Code of Conduct, which sets out standards around an individual's social media activity.

3. See answer to question 2.
4. See answer to question 2.