

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

Question No: 319
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Clean Energy Regulator (CER)
Topic: Renewable Energy Generation – Average Hours
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 28 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Back, Chris asked:

1. What is the average hours per day, by month over the last year (per state) that wind farms did not produce any power (above their own consumption)?
2. How does this equate on a per day, by month over the last year (per state), to each state's total generated electricity in percentage terms?

Answer:

1. Unknown. The Clean Energy Regulator is unable to answer this question for the following reasons.
 - The Clean Energy Regulator does not continuously monitor the electricity output from power stations. The relevant information may be available from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).
 - In accordance with the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* (the Act), the Clean Energy Regulator validates large-scale generation certificates to accredited power stations for every MWh of electricity **produced**. Therefore, periods where a power station is not producing electricity is irrelevant to the Clean Energy Regulator's administration of the Act.
2. Unknown. For the reasons provided above, the Clean Energy Regulator is unable to respond to this question. This question may be better directed to AEMO who is the primary source of data on all large-scale electricity generation in the National Electricity Market.