

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Australian manufacturers access to affordable energy

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-153

In relation to energy (both electricity and gas), what work has the Department been undertaking with other government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Energy, to ensure Australian manufacturers have secure access to affordable energy?

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the Department) liaises with the Department of the Environment and Energy primarily, and also with other agencies such as the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Treasury, on a range of matters related to energy policy, including in respect to the manufacturing and the mineral and energy industries. This includes the Department's roles performed through the Resources Division to support access to affordable oil and gas.

The Department, along with other Australian government agencies, participates on committees/taskforces that relate to energy security, affordability and reliability for Australian businesses and households. These include:

- The officials' gas taskforce established to manage implementation of the measures announced by the Prime Minister on 15 March, following his meeting with east coast gas suppliers;
- The Senior Committee of Officials that supports the COAG Energy Council;
- The Steering Group for the 2017 Review of Climate Change Policies.

The Department also consults with other portfolios to support the activities of the Energy Committee of the Cabinet.