

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

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**AGENCY:** NORTHERN AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

**TOPIC:** Energy generation projects

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 131-132)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-56

Senator KETTER: Moving to a bit more detail about the energy generation projects, you have indicated that there are 20 out the 100 inquiries. Is that the case?

Ms Walker: Yes.

Senator KETTER: Can you tell us the nature of those energy projects? Are they gas, renewable, coal-fired or all of the above?

Ms Walker: I do have that information, but at this point I would have to take it on notice. I do not have it with me at the moment.

Senator Canavan: We will take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: I have series of questions in relation to that. Are you able to say how many coal-fired power generation projects you are currently considering?

Ms Walker: No. I would have to take any more detail on notice.

Senator KETTER: If you are considering coal-fired power generators, when did you start progressing those applications?

Senator Canavan: We will have to take that question on notice as well, given that the premise goes to the previous question, which we did take on notice in terms of if there are any coal in the 20, but I am not aware of that. But your second question is redundant, so we will take that on notice.

Senator KETTER: Minister, on ABC radio, on 2 February, you said that you received interest over the past week associated with a commitment to build baseload power stations, including to support clean coal options. Have you referred any of those approaches to NAIF?

Senator Canavan: I have certainly had discussions with people, and I have indicated publicly and in discussions with others that we have a Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility that can take applications for energy infrastructure. As Ms Walker mentioned before, this is a proponent led process. So it is up to those potential investors to bring them forward to the NAIF. I certainly think coal has a huge future in the world, and there is no reason why we, in Australia, should not be looking at it as well, given that we are the world's largest coal exporter.

Senator KETTER: Ms Walker, are you aware of the interest that the minister has just told us about and have you received the follow-up inquiries from those parties?

Ms Walker: I think that was a question on notice I was going to take

**ANSWER**

As of 10 March 2017, NAIF has received 20 inquiries for projects in the energy sector. We are unable to provide the details as to specifics regarding particular projects are commercial in confidence (refer to AI-54 for further information).