



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry**

Industry House, 10 Binara Street  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

GPO Box 9839  
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
Web: [www.industry.gov.au](http://www.industry.gov.au)

ABN: 74 599 608 295

Ms Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary  
Senate Estimates Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dermody

**Amendment to Question on Notice**

Please find attached an updated response to a Question on Notice (QoN) the department has previously provided for tabling. The details are as follows:

- QoN BI-63 – Renewable Energy Target Review – Stakeholder Discussions from Senator Whish-Wilson regarding the Renewable Energy Target with Origin, AGL and EnergyAustralia in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 June 2014

Following further internal enquiries, we have updated the list of meetings attended by the Minister and the Department of Industry representatives. The response now includes the new information.

I apologise for the oversight. It would be most appreciated if you could provide the updated response to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Morling  
Head of Division  
Energy Division

15 August 2014

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15  
2-3 June 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Renewable Energy Target Review – Stakeholder Discussions

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2014, page 38)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-63

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Has the minister, secretary or any level of the bureaucracy had meetings with either Origin, AGL or Energy Australia in relation to the RET and the RET review—prior to or after the Warburton review commenced?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I will let other officers add to this, but we meet with our stakeholders on a regular basis and talk about a range of matters, including the RET.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Can you tell us when you had those discussions?

**Ms Beauchamp:** I would have to take on notice when I have had discussions with those organisations. As I said, we do talk about a range of matters.

**Senator Ronaldson:** You do understand that this is an independent review and that we cannot pre-empt the outcome of those independent review discussions. I want to put a framework around what can and cannot be answered by the officers at the table. I am sure they will take that on board.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** With the scrapping of the Million Solar Roofs Program from the budget—without any reference or announcement—how actively were incumbent generators engaging with the department or the minister in relation to this policy?

**Mr Hoffman:** I struggle to answer that question in the sense that it was, I believe, discussed in the context of the Emissions Reduction Fund and the Direct Action Plan, which are the responsibility of Minister Hunt and the Department of the Environment.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** We have asked similar questions of Minister Hunt. He has taken those on notice, but we were told to also put the questions to Minister Macfarlane in terms of the industry fund. I suppose what we are looking for is whether you can confirm or deny that coal and gas generators, or their industry lobby groups, have been lobbying the government to drop this specific policy.

**Senator Ronaldson:** There is an independent review underway at the moment, and it is certainly not appropriate to discuss what matters may or may not have been raised with the minister. I cannot rule in and rule out what discussions may or may not have been had. In a general sense, we will take that question on notice and see whether we can provide you with any further answers.

**Mr Hoffman:** I will add to that. As the secretary said, we meet regularly with companies and industry associations across the whole range of views—clean energy companies, energy efficiency associations, et cetera—and they all put a perspective to us. One of the tasks of the Public Service advising the government is to take all those perspectives into account.

## ANSWER

The Minister and the Department of Industry meet with stakeholders on a regular basis and talk about a range of energy policy matters including issues raised in this question. This includes meetings with companies and industry associations who hold a range of views. Details on meetings regarding the Renewable Energy Target with Origin, AGL or Energy Australia in the period 7 September 2013 to 30 June 2014 is provided below.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Minister/MO/DOI Representatives</b>
1	29/10/2013	Origin Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA)	Secretary
2	18/11/2013	AGL	Head of Energy Division
3	05/12/2013	EnergyAustralia	Minister for Industry Head of Energy Division
4	05/12/2013	Origin	Secretary Head of Resources Division
5	10/12/2013	Origin	Minister for Industry Deputy Secretary Head of Energy Division General Manager, National Energy Markets Branch General Manger, Governance and Demand Side Policy Branch
6	13/12/2013	Origin, EnergyAustralia, AGL	Minister for Industry Deputy Secretary Head of Energy Division Head of Resources Division Manager, Electricity Market Development Manager, Retail Policy Senior Policy Officer 3 x COAG-EC Secretariat Officers*
8	15/04/2013	AGL	General Manager, Energy Productivity Branch
9	17/06/2014	Origin	Minister for Industry Deputy Secretary

\*PART OF BROADER STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS INCLUDED IN AGENDA OF RELEVANT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (STANDING COUNCIL ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES (2013) AND COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS ENERGY COUNCIL (2014)