

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Energy review

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-120

1. On what date was a copy of the independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market final report provided to the government?
2. What resources for the conduct of the review were provided by the office of the chief scientist?
3. Who did the Chief Scientist brief on the contents of the final review? On which dates?

ANSWER

1. The final report of the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market (the Review) was provided to the COAG Leaders' meeting on the morning of 9 June 2017. The final report was publicly released on the afternoon of 9 June.
2. Most of the resources for the Review were provided by the Department of Environment and Energy, which included a taskforce of around 17 staff from both the Department of Environment and Energy, as well as external agencies. The Office of the Chief Scientist provided administration and communications support to Chief Scientist Dr Finkel in his role as Chair of the Review.
3. Chief Scientist Dr Finkel briefed the Prime Minister and Premiers and Chief Ministers on the contents of the final review at the COAG Leaders' meeting in Hobart on the morning of 9 June 2017.

In the afternoon of 9 June, Dr Finkel also briefed by telephone:

- Opposition Leader, the Hon Bill Shorten MP
- Australian Greens Leader, Senator Richard Di Natale
- One Nation Leader, Senator Pauline Hanson

On 8 June, on the eve of the COAG Leader's meeting, Dr Finkel briefed the COAG Energy Council via a teleconference on the key contents and the recommendations of the final report. This teleconference included all State and Territory Energy Ministers and the Federal Energy Minister.

In the lead-up to the release of the final report on 9 June, Dr Finkel canvassed the key content of the final report in individual meetings with State and Territory Energy Ministers from National Electricity Market jurisdictions. Dr Finkel also briefed federal ministers, including Federal Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg.

The dates of these briefings were:

- 1 June: ACT Sustainability Minister, Shane Rattenbury MLA

- 31 May: Queensland Energy Minister, the Hon Minister Mark Bailey
- 29 May: Federal Energy Minister, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
- 26 May: NSW Energy Minister, the Hon Don Harwin MLC
- 25 May: Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
- 25 May: Federal Science Minister, Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos
- 24 May: Victorian Energy Minister, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
- 22 May: South Australian Energy Minister, the Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
- 18 May: Tasmanian Energy Minister, the Hon Matthew Groom MP