

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: National Energy Review

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-74

In regards to the role of the Chief Scientist in chairing the National Energy Review:

- 1) When was the Chief Scientist appointed to chair the review? When was the Chief Scientist approached to consider chairing the review?
- 2) Why was the Chief Scientist appointed to chair the review?
- 3) What skills does the Chief Scientist possess to enable him to effectively chair the review?
- 4) What progress has been made to date? Have the other members of the review been appointed?
- 5) Will there be a consultative process? Who will be consulted?
- 6) Will there be a submission process?
- 7) Who will provide secretariat support for the review?
- 8) Will the Chief Scientist be remunerated for his participation in this review?

ANSWER

1) The Chief Scientist was appointed to chair the review on 7 October 2016. The Chief Scientist was approached to consider chairing the review on 6 October 2016.

2) The Chief Scientist has experience with complex organizations and engineering systems. He also has experience with leading processes involving stakeholders with differing views. He is not conflicted, and is seen as independent.

3) Dr Finkel has experience derived from many years as CEO of an ASX listed company, chairing the amalgamation that formed the Florey Neuroscience Institute, chairing the Council of Monash University, leading the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, serving as Australia's Chief Scientist, experience as the co-chair of the R&D Tax Incentive review, and experience as chair of the National Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

4) Review panel members have been appointed, and a task force based in the Department of Environment and Energy has been established to support the review. The Chief Scientist has been engaged in discussions with stakeholders regarding key issues to be addressed in the course of the review.

Other members of the review panel have been appointed. They are:

- Mr Terry Effeney (CEO of Energex in Queensland)
- Ms Karen Moses (Company director, formerly of Origin Energy)
- Ms Chloe Munro (Chair, Clean Energy Regulator)
- Prof Mary O'Kane AC (NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer)

5) The panel will undertake broad consultations with industry, consumer groups and government.

- 6) A submission process will begin after the issues paper is released.
- 7) A secretariat comprising Commonwealth, State and Territory government officials has been established to support the panel.
- 8) Dr Finkel's leadership of the Review will be part of his activities as Chief Scientist.