

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 91
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Clean Energy Regulator
Topic: Independent Reports into renewable energy
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 04 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Back asked:

I refer to Question 105, Additional Estimates 2013:

The CER referred to websites carrying two reports. The first report by Pitt and Sherry is a desktop study.

1. Is the CER able to provide evidence (i.e. actual data) to support the assumptions and, therefore, the conclusions on which that study was based?
2. The other paper by McLennan Magasanik & Co is another desktop study. The paper was produced in 2006, long before there was any significant wind power capacity in Victoria or elsewhere on the Eastern Grid.
3. Is the CER able to provide evidence (i.e. actual data) to support the assumptions and, therefore, the conclusions on which that study was based?
4. How does the CER claim that paper has any relevance today when Victorian wind power capacity is now 884 MW and there is 2,660 MW connected to the Eastern Grid?
5. Is the CER able to obtain the actual coal use data from Victorian coal-fired power plants?

Answer:

1. The Clean Energy Regulator has not undertaken any studies with regard to greenhouse gases in the electricity sector as there is no requirement to do so under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000*.
2. The Clean Energy Regulator is responsible for administering legislation relating to renewable energy and carbon emissions. The Clean Energy Regulator is not required or resourced to conduct studies into the impact of the legislation.
3. Please refer to the response provided in part 2.
4. Under the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* the Clean Energy Regulator does not collect electricity generation data from coal powered power stations. However under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*, the Clean Energy Regulator reports and disseminates company information about greenhouse gas emissions, energy production, energy consumption and other information as specified in the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting legislation.