

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR38

Topic: Australian Renewable Energy Agency

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. When the clean energy package is fully operational how many staff are expected to be employed in the Australian Renewable Energy Agency? How many are expected to be employed at 1 July 2012?
2. Where will Australian Renewable Energy Agency staff be based? What will be the office requirements for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and how much floor space will be occupied?
3. What will the budget for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency be for each financial year to 2020 (inclusive)?

Answer:

1. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) will directly employ two staff; its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Other staff necessary to assist in the operation and administration of ARENA will be provided by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (RET), under a Service Level Agreement. From 1 July 2012 it is expected that ARENA will have between 50 and 60 staff providing its operational and administrative support.
2. Most of ARENA's staff will be based in RET's offices in Canberra.

The exact office requirements and amount of floor space required by ARENA or staff serving ARENA are yet to be determined. These requirements are expected to be typical of existing arrangements for RET and compliant with the occupational density target established by the Australian Government of 16 square metres of usable office area per occupied work-point.

3. ARENA's ongoing budget for each year to 2020 will consist of an annual appropriation as specified in section 64 of the *Australian Renewable Energy Agency Bill 2011* and any other money received by ARENA.

The table in section 64 (1) of the *Australian Renewable Energy Agency Bill 2011* as referred to above is copied below:

Yearly maximum payments to ARENA		
Item	Financial year	Amount for financial year
1	2012-2013	\$292,565,000.00
2	2013-2014	\$346,404,000.00
3	2014-2015	\$437,640,000.00
4	2015-2016	\$321,810,000.00
5	2016-2017	\$299,550,000.00
6	2017-2018	\$221,000,000.00
7	2018-2019	\$237,000,000.00
8	2019-2020	\$368,340,000.00