Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Climate Change

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing–October 2008

Written question reference: CC20a
Outcome/Output: Response to climate change
Topic: Feed-in Tariffs
Hansard Page: Not relevant for written QoN

Question: (Senator Birmingham)

Why did the Government fail to deliver on its repeated promises to tackle the issue of solar feed-in tariffs through the COAG meeting in October?

Answer:

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) was due to consider feed-in tariffs at its meeting in October 2008, however this issue was deferred, as COAG considered a cooperative response to the impact of the global financial crisis its priority. The matter was then considered at the COAG meeting on 29 November.

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Question: (Senator Birmingham)
When does it intend to resume debate on this measure?

Does the Government support a gross feed-in tariff model or a net feed-in tariff model?

Answer:
On 29 November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) considered the issue of harmonisation of renewable energy feed-in tariffs. The Australian Government does not propose to introduce its own feed-in tariff.