



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Tuesday, 22 May 2018
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 9.50pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Snowy Hydro Ltd, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- opportunities for industry participation in the Snowy Hydro 2.0 project;
- modelling in relation to the viability of the Snowy Hydro 2.0 project;
- funding for the protection of Ramsar Convention listed wetlands;
- potential for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to support a lithium industry in Australia;
- ARENA's \$20 million hydrogen funding round;
- agreement between the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Macquarie Group's leasing arm to support uptake of electric vehicles;
- Australian Energy Market Operator's advice to the Government on matters relating to dispatchable capability in the National Electricity Market;
- proposed closure of the Liddell power station in NSW in 2022;
- what the Government is doing to replace ageing energy infrastructure including coal fired power stations;
- Government's announcement that there will be an assessment of liquid fuel security;
- potential electricity price impacts of the Government's acquisition of Snowy Hydro Ltd;
- evidence regarding feral horse (brumby) impacts on the environment in the Australian alps;
- impact of the Chinese government's ban on imports of 24 categories of solid waste;
- target that Australian packaging be 100 per cent recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025;
- release of updated figures for Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory;
- carbon capture and disposal project at the Gorgon LNG project in Western Australia;
- Government's *National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy*; and
- Tesla lithium-ion battery at Neoen wind farm in Hornsdale.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Wednesday, 23 May 2018 in Senate Committee Room 2S3.