



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



## **THE SENATE**

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY (ELECTRICITY) (CHARGE) AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

**In Committee**

## **SPEECH**

**Thursday, 20 August 2009**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

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**Date** Thursday, 20 August 2009  
**Page** 5533  
**Questioner**  
**Speaker** Fielding, Sen Steve

**Source** Senate  
**Proof** No  
**Responder**  
**Question No.**

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**Senator FIELDING** (Victoria—Leader of the Family First Party) (11.31 am)—I do not want to labour the point, and I will not—

**Senator Abetz**—But you are.

**Senator FIELDING**—No. This is important. What will happen here is that the National Party will run out to the dairy industry and the food-processing industry and say, ‘We tried to look out for you and we tried to help you but we just couldn’t do it on the floor.’ Where were you when you agreed to this? Seriously—where were you when you agreed to this? Did you even know that it was agreed to? Did you really know what time it was agreed to yesterday? Were you really consulted about this being one of those things that would be dropped off the table?

**Senator Joyce**—The amendment was tabled, Senator Fielding.

**Senator FIELDING**—I understand that. What I am saying is that you had the power. It is a bit like when Joyce came into this chamber—

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Senator Marshall)**—It is Senator Joyce.

**Senator FIELDING**—Through you, Chair, it is a bit like when he came into this chamber and said, ‘I’ve saved Christmas Day and Anzac Day under Work Choices.’ He never did. It was a crock then and he is doing the same thing again today. He is saying, ‘Well, I tried.’ You have not saved anything. This will go down on the votes today, but it is unfortunate that you had the power, with the coalition, to make sure that the food-processing and dairy industries were looked after, and you failed.