



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

BILLS

**Building and Construction Industry
(Improving Productivity) Amendment Bill 2017**

In Committee

SPEECH

Wednesday, 15 February 2017

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

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Questioner		Responder	
Speaker	Xenophon, Sen Nick	Question No.	

Senator XENOPHON (South Australia) (21:38): I am sorry, Madam Chair, point taken. This is an issue that arose out of the Senate inquiry that took place earlier this week, when we heard from the ETU—the Electrical Trades Union. There was a concern about essential services, and the particular issue that was raised was about the SA Power Networks. I made the point then, and I make it now: no-one in their right mind could reasonably say that the high power prices and issues of reliability in South Australia have anything to do with the workforce; they are due to a whole range of other factors that we ought not to go into now, including gaming by generators.

In terms of the exemptions being sought here, what mechanisms are there in the code to ensure that SA Power Networks is exempt from the code, given that it does provide an essential service, and what safeguards are there to ensure that SA Power Networks would be exempt from the code, as it ought to be?