



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



## **THE SENATE**

### **BILLS**

**Clean Energy Bill 2011, Clean Energy  
(Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011, Clean  
Energy (Income Tax Rates Amendments) Bill  
2011, Clean Energy (Household Assistance  
Amendments) Bill 2011, Clean Energy  
(Tax Laws Amendments) Bill 2011, Clean  
Energy (Fuel Tax Legislation Amendment)  
Bill 2011, Clean Energy (Customs Tariff  
Amendment) Bill 2011, Clean Energy (Excise  
Tariff Legislation Amendment) Bill 2011,  
Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse  
Gas (Import Levy) Amendment Bill 2011,  
Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse  
Gas (Manufacture Levy) Amendment Bill**

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**2011, Clean Energy (Unit Shortfall Charge—  
General) Bill 2011, Clean Energy (Unit Issue  
Charge—Auctions) Bill 2011, Clean Energy  
(Unit Issue Charge—Fixed Charge) Bill 2011,  
Clean Energy (International Unit Surrender  
Charge) Bill 2011, Clean Energy (Charges—  
Customs) Bill 2011, Clean Energy (Charges  
—Excise) Bill 2011, Clean Energy Regulator  
Bill 2011, Climate Change Authority Bill 2011**

**In Committee**

**SPEECH**

**Monday, 7 November 2011**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

## SPEECH

**Date** Monday, 7 November 2011  
**Page** 8390  
**Questioner**  
**Speaker** Nash, Sen Fiona

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

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**Senator NASH** (New South Wales—Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Senate) (17:55): I thank the minister for her answer. She referred to a whole range of things, but not specifically to an average increase in electricity costs for farmers. I do not know if the modelling has not been done, and I understand the minister will not have everything at her fingertips, but it is a significant issue. It is quite concerning for farmers and people across regional communities that, when asked a very simple question about the average increase in electricity costs to farmers, the minister was not able to give the chamber a straight answer. I think that is very concerning because it indicates perhaps a lack of attention or understanding of the importance of this issue.

The minister did mention in her answer that there was a calculation based on small businesses or householders. If I understood it correctly, there is small business and householder assistance. Family farms are classified as both, so has that been taken into account when determining any assistance? I also ask the minister, given that the government has recently released the National Food Plan, what impact of the carbon tax on farming and agriculture has been taken into account when formulating that plan. There is going to be a significant impost on farmers and right across our regional communities, through farming businesses and the flow-on effects. That significant impost has to impact on farm profitability—there is absolutely no doubt about that. So to what extent was the carbon tax impact taken into account in the development of the National Food Plan?