



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**

**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

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Questioner
Speaker Nash, Sen Fiona

Source Senate
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Senator NASH (New South Wales—Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Senate) (18:06): I do appreciate that. Thank you, through you, Madam Chair, to the minister. Perhaps at some stage between now and lunchtime tomorrow the minister might like to give us some advice on that through this process. That would be quite useful. Also, the electricity costs which have been referred to certainly provide a significant disincentive when it comes to irrigated agriculture. A lot of these costs are going to fall to the irrigation community. We know they are going to be significant, looking at the 10 per cent cost that the minister has just referred to. They are going to be huge in a lot of cases for a lot of these farmers. What I am interested in is irrigated agriculture. Minister, you would be very well aware of all of this. The increased electricity costs are going to provide a real disincentive for irrigators to install piped and pressurised systems so that they can be far more efficient in what they are doing. Isn't it the case, then, that the carbon tax, by placing these increased electricity costs which we have just been discussing on farmers, is going to have the very perverse outcome of providing a disincentive to farmers being more efficient when it comes to irrigated agriculture?