

OUTCOME 1.6: Response to QoNs from 31 March 2022

Chair, on Thursday 31 March, the Department took a number of questions from Senator McAllister on notice. We are able to provide responses to some of these now if it is convenient.

Senator McAllister asked whether the Department had received a request for additional funding to support the Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence, beyond the initial \$1m allocated to establish the Centre. And whether the Government had agreed to such funding.

- The Department has not received a request for additional funding to date and has not agreed to provide such funding to date.

Senator McAllister also asked for the contract period with the Centre of Excellence for delivery of solar PV product stewardship co-design.

- The contract period is from 25 October 2021 to 31 May 2022 (Austender link: <https://www.tenders.gov.au/Cn/Show/f1c9029c-b075-43c9-979e-8b835bf5dcd4>).

In addition, Senator McAllister requested information on the average processing time for waste export licence applications under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act.

- Once a complete application is made, we aim to make a decision within 20 business days. The majority of applications finalised have been made in this timeframe (on average to date, **within 13 business days**).
- From January 2021 to February 2022 we received over 150 applications (including variations and exemptions), more than double the 60 we had forecast to receive over this timeframe.
- Currently, the average processing time for each application is around **11 and a half weeks from the date received to when a decision is made**.
 - This means that on average, the department has spent **about nine weeks working with applicants** to ensure sufficient information is available for an application to be considered complete under the legislation.
 - This reflects that the waste export ban has been a significant transition for industry and that many applicants have required assistance to work through the process to provide sufficient supporting information about their practices (eg. suppliers, specifications, processing capacity, use of the exported waste overseas).
 - Once sufficient information is available and a complete application has been made, a decision is made on average in 13 business days.