

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 124

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Corporate

**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division

**Topic:** Staff Cuts from Efficiency Dividend

**Hansard Page:** 9

**Question Date:** 18 November 2013

**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

Senator WATERS: On that same theme, just so I have my figures right, can you quantify precisely how many folk have now been cut as a result of the previous administration's efficiency dividend, as a first port of call?

Ms Carlos: I would have to take that on notice to the extent that we do not allocate staff cuts to specific things, so we manage within the total budget, and that means that it covers off a range of things, not only efficiency dividends but normal ongoing reductions in programs and other various saving aspects.

**Answer:**

The Department manages its budget holistically and does not allocate staff cuts to specific initiatives including efficiency dividend. Where possible the Department has managed the increases to the efficiency dividend by reductions to items such as travel, external consultants and contractors, advertising, printing and not filling positions when staff members leave. As such the Department cannot quantify the number of staff that has been reduced as a direct result of the increase to the efficiency dividend.