

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

**Question No:** 15

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Outcome 2

**Programme:** Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division

**Topic:** Red Tape Reduction

**Hansard Page:** N/A

**Question Date:** 18 November 2013

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?

a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target

How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?

How have they been recruited?

What process was used for their appointment?

What is the total cost of this unit?

Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?

Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.

**Answer:**

The Department has established the Environment Portfolio Deregulation Unit. Resourcing for the Unit, including staffing levels and classifications, will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action.

The Government has also committed to establishing a 'one-stop-shop' environmental approvals process, repealing the carbon tax and conducting an audit with states of existing environmental legislation. Staffing resources within the Department have been allocated to both of these activities, specifically to implement the 'one-stop-shop' environmental approvals policy and to support the processes required to deliver the Government's policy to repeal the carbon tax.

These deregulatory activities are being supported from within the Department's existing budget by adjusting internal priorities according to normal practice. In accordance with these normal duties, relevant officers have access to relevant Cabinet documents and hold the required security clearances.