

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

Question No: 26

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Outcome 4

Programme: Water Reform Division

Topic: Adaptation to Climate Change – Water

Hansard Page: N/A

Question Date: 27 November 2013

Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Have resources in relation to climate change adaptation changed since the May Budget?

Has the department experienced any change in its capacity to address the issue of climate change adaptation in relation to water?

What water impacts would you expect from planting 20 million trees in Australia, as outlined in the Government's policy?

Answer:

1. The 2013/14 Budget did not include any changes to resourcing for adaptation functions which were undertaken by the former Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education and which are now undertaken by the Department of the Environment. The Climate Change Adaptation Programme concluded on 30 June 2013.
2. No.
3. Potential impacts on water resources are being considered in the design of the 20 Million Trees programme. Water resources may be influenced by factors such as the location of tree plantings, the species planted and broader climatic variables in the years following tree planting. It is anticipated that any significant impacts, for example through interception, will be managed through existing water resource planning processes and in accordance with the National Water Initiative.