

Additional Estimates February 2019

Environment and Energy Portfolio – Monday 18 February 2019

Question No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing	Comment
1	Corporate: CSD	Senator Hanson-Young	Staffing in the Minister for the Environment's office	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware whether the minister's office is currently understaffed? Mr Pratt: No. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have there been any requests from the department for extra resources? Mr Pratt: At different stages that has been the case, but at the moment I suspect that they are fully staffed. I'll correct that on notice if that's not the case, but I think they've got their full complement and have had their full complement of staff over recent months.</p>	Page 11	SQ19-000004
2	Corporate: CSD	Senator Urquhart	Funding - list of government programs	<p>Senator URQUHART: If you can provide this on notice, that will be fine: can we get a list of all government programs, what funding is budgeted, what funding is committed and what funding is uncommitted? Mr Knudson: Is that for the entire portfolio, the department and Landcare? Senator URQUHART: Yes. Mr Cahill: We'll take that on notice. Senator URQUHART: Yes, I'm happy for you to take that on notice.</p>	Page 17	SQ19-000021
3	Corporate: General Counsel	Senator Hanson-Young	List of legislation the Minister for the Environment is working on	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What legislation is the minister working on currently? Mr Knudson: The most obvious example is the one that I just referred to. While that statutorily mandated review for the EPBC Act needs to begin in October,</p>	Page 14	SQ19-000022

				<p>we'll need to start to engage with the minister fairly soon on how that will unfold. So that would be an example.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: In fact, I personally briefed the minister on arrangements for the EPBC Act review last year. So we have started that process. I suspect Minister Price is also focusing on some of the legislation that underpins our climate policy.</p> <p>Ms Evans: And a range of other things. I was going to say that obviously the administrative arrangements order lists all of the pieces of legislation that are within the responsibility of Minister Price. And some of the things that she is working on on the legislation are fairly routine. We've still got work, for example, underway under the equality legislation to do final adjustments to the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement that need to be done to make sure that they can be properly implemented. There are always small things being done right across the board.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'd like a list of them. I'd like a list of what it is that the minister is actually working on.</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think we'll have to take that on notice. That could be quite a difficult thing for us to produce.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: As a cabinet minister, we regularly brief Minister Price on broader legislative agendas of the government to ensure that she's fully informed of the department's view on different legislative packages that aren't directly related to the portfolio.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to clarify, what I'd like is a list of legislation that the minister is responsible for. You can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'm sorry, Senator Hanson-Young; I'd refer you to the administrative arrangements for that. That's publicly available information.</p>		
4	Corporate:	Senator	Public comments	Senator CHISHOLM: Has the Minister for the	Page 6	SQ19-000015

	PAAI	Chisholm	about the floods in Queensland	Environment made public comments about the floods in North Queensland and north-west Queensland? Mr Pratt: We'll have to take that on notice.		
5	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Chisholm	Minister for the Environment interview transcripts	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I note that the Minister for the Environment has her media releases on her website. Does the minister put interview transcripts on her website?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We'll have to liaise with her office on that. Are you talking about the departmental website, or her personal website?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I think they normally go up on the departmental website. Do you put your transcripts up on the departmental website?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: It depends on the content of the transcripts. Transcripts that have more political content do not go up on my departmental website.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But the ones related to your portfolio do go up on the departmental one?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Sometimes there are numerous topics in a transcript.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But, as a rule, if they're related to your portfolio they go up on the website?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Different departments and different officers have their own policies and protocols.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I'm asking you, though.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: As Minister for Trade in the DFAT portfolio—which is not what we're here to talk about, but I'm happy to go off on a tangent if you wish—I'm pretty sure that some of my transcripts appear on the DFAT website.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I don't think we're going off on a tangent; we're trying to establish—as there have been significant environmental issues in the first two months of this year—whether the minister is doing interviews about what is happening. We've got fires, we've got floods and we've got what's happening in</p>	Page 7 and 8	SQ19-000005

				<p>the Murray-Darling Basin. Has the minister done any interviews about these issues?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: A minister's work output and contribution is not measured by his or her interviews.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I asked a specific question; has the minister done any interviews?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: And we've already taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: That's the first time I've asked it.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: No. You asked whether there were any comments on the public record or the like which are a product of interviews, and we have taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: No. I said: does the minister put transcripts on her website?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: And, prior to that, you asked about any public comments on the topic.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: How many interviews has the minister done since she became a minister?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll take that on notice. By 'interviews', do you mean all types of interviews?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just if there are disasters.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Any type of media source or just electronic? When I speak to a print journalist, I don't tend to publish a transcript of those remarks.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Sure. Any media interviews.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We'll take that on notice.</p>		
6	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Chisholm	Ministerial interview requests	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: How many requests for interview has the department passed on to the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 8	SQ19-000007
7	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Hanson-Young	Meetings with stakeholders - Minister for the Environment	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you provide us with a list of stakeholders that the minister has met with?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We will take that on notice.</p>	Page 10 and 11	SQ19-000003

				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That's a large request. Is there a time frame you're looking for, for the minister meeting with stakeholders?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Since the minister has been in the job.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Okay.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I don't think the list will be very long, given what we know; but whatever you've got would be helpful. Does the department attend the briefings with stakeholders that the minister has?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Sometimes, yes; that's fairly conventional. Ministers often want to meet with stakeholders independent of the department or if it suits their schedule, depending on where they are in the country; at other times they want the department to be there. So we accommodate the minister's preferences.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you would be aware that the minister has not met with the Wilderness Society, for example, even though they've asked on several occasions for a meeting?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: No, I'm not conscious of that, but we've taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware of whether the minister has met with the Wilderness Society?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm not. As Mr Pratt has said, we'll take that on notice and come back.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware that several requests have been made?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Certainly I'm aware that stakeholders seek to meet with ministers; that is a never-ending process.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware that Greenpeace Australia Pacific have asked to meet with the minister and have not had a response?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Next you'll be telling us that</p>		
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				<p>she hasn't met with the Greens political party, too, Senator Hanson-Young.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: No. I'd like to know who she has met with.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Certainly. We have taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Has the minister met with the Minerals Council?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I don't know. We will cover that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would they be a stakeholder?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware that the Humane Society has been asking for a meeting for quite some time from the minister?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: The same answer applies.</p>		
8	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Hanson-Young	Twitter as an official means of communication	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Does the department consider Twitter an official means of communication with stakeholders?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: It is a form of communication.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is that something that the department briefs the minister on, what communication comes via Twitter or through Twitter?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I'd imagine that would be exceptionally rare but, if there was something significant, we might.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you suggest that stakeholders should be engaged with via Twitter?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I'm fairly flexible on these things. Whatever works for stakeholders and ministers I'm comfortable with.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So from your perspective, the department's view is that Twitter is an official means of communication, is it?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: It is certainly a method of communication. I would note that the US President is a—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Come on!</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I was just about to say, in relation to your line of questioning, Senator Hanson-</p>	Page 11-12 and 12-13	SQ19-000023

				<p>Young, that Mr Pratt is expert in many things and, of course, is a departmental secretary largely for his policy skills and executive management skills. I don't know whether your line of questioning about communication strategies is entirely in his field of expertise.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Is she tweeting in her capacity as a minister or in her personal capacity?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: In that case, I'd best ask Senator Hanson-Young or you, Senator Keneally, which Twitter account you are referring to.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Yes, '@melissa.price.mp'. Actually, I think it's '@melissa.for.durack', to be fair. That is her Twitter handle. My apologies.</p> <p>CHAIR: Perhaps we can just get some clarification. Are you proposing to take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: She doesn't have an '@melissa.price.mp'. That was my mistake. It's '@melissa.for.durack'.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Are you saying that's her ministerial statement or—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That is what the question is; that's the question.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: That's the question; that's the question.</p> <p>CHAIR: Order!</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: Don't both speak at once. Perhaps we could maintain some order, as exciting as this is.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: One of the things that the department has been focused on is the minister trying to raise awareness through social media, in particular Facebook et cetera, through the Threatened Species Commissioner. So we do definitely use social media in trying to reach other areas of the country et cetera. So I'd just flag that we're not agnostic on the use of</p>		
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				social media; we absolutely do engage in it. But the specifics of this, as the minister has said, we'd have to take on notice.		
9	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Urquhart	List of recent funding announcements	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me—this is a budget update—what recent funding announcements have been made—names and amounts?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We have the Jabiru statement on 13 January.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And the amount?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: \$216 million. We might collectively pool our knowledge of various announcements.</p> <p>Mr Chisholm: As the secretary has indicated, there was an announcement in relation to funding for Jabiru, which comprised a number of measures to assist with the transition of that township in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: At the moment I'm just after the names and the amounts, rather than the detail.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Going back how far, Senator?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: About the pandas?</p> <p>Mr Chisholm: The pandas?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm sorry; I thought you said that you were going back to the pandas.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We want to know how far back you'd like us to go in terms of funding announcements.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I know that you like Adelaide, so I thought you were going back to the pandas.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'm quite fond of Adelaide, actually.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I knew you were, and I thought you might have a view on the pandas. It would probably be since July last year.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Perhaps we can take that on notice and give you a list of funding announcements. There are quite a few relating to the budget, MYEFO and other</p>	Page 15 and 16	SQ19-000020

				things. Senator URQUHART: Are you able to come back with that today? Mr Pratt: We'll get that to you as soon as we can.		
10	Corporate: CSD	Senator Bilyk	Ministerial functions	In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following: List of functions; List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; Function venue; Itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>); Details of any food served; Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; Any available photographs of the function; and Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	SQ19-000211
11	Corporate: CSD	Senator Bilyk	Departmental functions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc. hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following: List of functions; List of attendees; Function venue; Itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>); Details of any food served; Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; Any available photographs of the function; and Details of any entertainment provided.	Written	SQ19-000213
12	Corporate: CSD	Senator Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, upgraded in calendar year 2018? If so, please provide an itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>).	Written	SQ19-000215
13	Corporate:	Senator Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Were the facilities of any of the Department's	Written	SQ19-000217

	CSD			premises upgraded in calendar year 2018, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade together with an itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.		
14	Corporate: CSD	Senator Bilyk	Staff travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental employees in calendar year 2018?	Written	SQ19-000218
15	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Bilyk	Ministerial overseas travel	Please provide an itemised list of the costs of all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2018. This list should include the costs of: Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel; Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials; Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed; Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided; and Any available photographs documenting the	Written	SQ19-000220

				Minister's travel should also be provided.		
16	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Bilyk	Media monitoring	What was the Department's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2018? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all media monitoring contracts in that period.	Written	SQ19-000219
17	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Bilyk	Advertising and information campaigns	What was the Department's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2018? What advertising and information campaigns did the Department run in the relevant period? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in that period.	Written	SQ19-000216
18	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Bilyk	Promotional merchandise	What was the Department's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2018? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period. Please provide photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise.	Written	SQ19-000214
19	Corporate: PAAI	Senator Bilyk	Social media influencers	What was the Department's total expenditure on social media influencers during calendar year 2018? What advertising or information campaigns did the Department use social media influencers to promote? Please provide a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts. Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts.	Written	SQ19-000212
20	1.1: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Environmental Stewardship Program – Funding	Senator URQUHART: That was \$695,000. How much is the total amount for the Environmental Stewardship Program, and is that committed or uncommitted? Do you want me to go through the list now, or do you just want to pull them off one by one? Ms Jonasson: If we pull them off one by one it is probably easier for us to find the relevant briefs as we	Page 99	SQ19-000033

				<p>go. The Environmental Stewardship Program is fully committed and has been running for some time.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you have the amount for that?</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: I have the total amount from 2016-17 through to 2022-23. That is \$57.5 million over those years. But the program is much longer than that. I'm not sure if we have the details, but I'll check. We might take that on notice. That program has been running for a number of years. It is a multi-decade program.</p>		
21	1.1: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Innovation Grants funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: The innovation grants?</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: I'm not sure which program you're referring to with that one.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The ones that are on your website.</p> <p>Ms Stevens: We might have to take that one on notice. I think that might be a previous program, similar to the targeted area grants.</p>	Page 99	SQ19-000034
22	1.1: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Community Heritage and Icon Grants program funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: You did. Community Heritage and Icon Grants would again be 1.4, or not? One should never assume.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: If it was heritage related it would be 1.4.</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: We might take that one on notice. It might be another legacy program. Just to explain for you: on our website we mention current as well as previous programs, because there's often useful information on a program that people might want to refer to or use for further programs. That's why we keep that information up there.</p>	Page 99	SQ19-000035
23	1.1: BCD	Senator Rice	NSW and Tasmanian RFAs – review and extensions	<p>Senator RICE: I have questions about the review and extension of the New South Wales and Tasmanian RFAs. Before agreeing to extend the New South Wales and Tasmanian RFAs, did the environment department undertake any analysis to determine the impact of native forest logging on listed threatened</p>	Page 100	SQ19-000037

				<p>species?</p> <p>Ms Stevens: The department has worked with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and the assessment is outlined in the assessment of matters report. That's available on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But was there a specific assessment of the impact of RFAs on listed threatened species?</p> <p>Ms Stevens: The assessment is outlined within the assessment of matters report.</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: We would be happy to provide that. It's a report that belongs to the agriculture department, but we'd be happy to give them a heads up.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Would the environment department have done that work, or was it the agriculture department that would have undertaken that work, if it took place?</p> <p>Ms Stevens: The assessment was undertaken with both portfolios working together,</p> <p>Senator RICE: So there was an assessment that was done, which you are saying is outlined in the report?</p> <p>Ms Stevens: In the assessment of matters report.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can you give me details of that?</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: That is really a question for the agriculture department. They have responsibility for that, but we would be happy to give them a heads up and let them know.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Specifically, did the department identify the subset of listed threatened fauna species which are dependent on native forests covered by the RFAs?</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: I don't have that level of detail here with me, I'm afraid. Again, I can have a look at it and take that question on notice. I'll also talk to my colleagues in the agriculture department that have led this process.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice specifically</p>		
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				<p>what species have been added to the list of threatened species since the RFAs came into force; which, if any, have been removed from this list because they're no longer threatened; which species have been uplifted to a more threatened category; and which remain listed at the same level.</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: In RFA regions?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: We're happy to take that on notice.</p>		
24	1.1: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Landcare Program funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: In relation to the question about the Landcare Program, I think you said it was \$1.1 billion over the forward estimates. Can you tell me how much of that is uncommitted?</p> <p>Ms Jonasson: I would have to take that question on notice because, as I said before, there are a lot of different elements to the program and I don't have all the breakdown of that. It's quite a job to go through and identify the uncommitted funding. We did give you some information on the individual programs that you identified, all of which are part of the program. But I can take that on notice and we can provide you with further information.</p>	Page 101	SQ19-000038
25	1.1: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation – administration costs	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Are you able to tell the Senate how much of the partnership grant so far has been spent on administration? Is that something you've been updated on to this point?</p> <p>Mr Moore: We have received the foundation's first progress report, at the end of January. That report is currently being reviewed, so at this stage I wouldn't be able to give you that figure, but I'm sure that we can take that on notice and come back to you.</p>	Page 102 and 103	SQ19-000039
26	1.1: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation – Staffing numbers	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. I have just a couple of quick questions. How many Brisbane based staff do the foundation now employ, in your understanding? They originally had six.</p> <p>Mr Moore: My understanding at the moment is that it's in the order of 28, but I would want to take that on</p>	Page 103	SQ19-000041

				notice and come back to you, Senator.		
27	1.1: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation – Accommodation	Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could do that. And in terms of upgrading the Brisbane office or expanding that considerably to accommodate those six to 28, the extra 22 staff, what kinds of costs have been incurred—if you could take that on notice.	Page 103	SQ19-000043
28	1.1: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation – Regional office	Senator WHISH-WILSON: Actually, my very last question on this matter is: is there going to be a Great Barrier Reef Foundation regional office in the reef catchment? I understand at the moment they've only got one employee in the reef catchment area. Mr Moore: I'll take that on notice.	Page 103	SQ19-000044
29	1.1: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Australian Institute of Marine Science's long-term monitoring program	Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you can take that on notice as well. I have a few quick questions about the Australian Institute of Marine Science's long-term monitoring program. Can you tell us if the contract has been signed between AIMS and the foundation for the long-term monitoring program for the far northern sector of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that occurred on 4 to 29 January this year? Ms Callister: Senator, I'm not aware exactly of whether the contract has been signed, but I do know that there was an agreement to provide a co-contribution to the funding for that particular voyage and that that work has happened, yes. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Are you able to tell us who owns the IP for this part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation funded program, whether it was AIMS or the foundation themselves? Ms Callister: Because I haven't actually seen the details of the contract, Senator, I would have to take that question on notice and consult with both the foundation and AIMS. Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could, because I understand there is a dispute over who owns the IP on that program at the moment, which is holding it up. Obviously it's a very important program. But could I	Page 103	SQ19-000046

				<p>ask you directly then, do you think it's appropriate, in going forward on this example or others, for the foundation to have the IP over what has been core business for a previous stakeholder in reef management and reef science?</p> <p>Ms Callister: Our preference, of course, is that information that's provided through Australian government funding, whether it's provided to AIMS or to university sectors, is made publicly available and available for others to use. That's a general comment about the particular approach, and that tends to be what we encapsulate in our standard contractual arrangements.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Exactly the point that I was going to pick up on, Senator. We'll come back to you on notice to confirm this, but my recollection is that's actually an explicit part of the grant agreement.</p>		
30	1.1: BCD	Senator Abetz	Tasmanian Forest Agreement – Tasmanian Forest Landscape Restoration Project	<p>Is it correct that Environment Tasmania was given a grant as part of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement – Tasmanian Forest Landscape Restoration Project?</p> <p>If so,</p> <p>i) from where or what fund was this money allocated?</p> <p>ii) how much?</p> <p>iii) for what purpose were the funds allocated?</p> <p>iv) which areas were to be restored?</p> <p>v) what monitoring has been undertaken as to the restoration?</p> <p>vi) is the Department satisfied with the restoration work and that it has been undertaken to the appropriate standard?</p> <p>vii) was there a written agreement as to what was actually required in exchange for the taxpayer funding?</p>	Written	SQ19-000002
31	1.3: CEWO	Senator Chisholm	Ministerial briefing on the mass fish kills in the Murray-Darling Basin	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the Minister for the Environment sought a briefing on the mass fish kills in the Murray-Darling Basin?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Again, that's an issue that my</p>	Page 6	SQ19-000008

				<p>colleagues in the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office are very aware of. That's outcome 1.3, but I would note that that is part of a Senate estimates process on Friday with the department of agriculture and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. That being said, I will endeavour to get a response to your question beforehand.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Once again, we might not have the specific details right here, but I'm aware of much material going back and forth on the fish kill during January and early February.</p>		
32	1.3: CEWO	Senator Chisholm	Public comments on the mass fish kills	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the Minister for the Environment made any public comments about the fish kills?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We would have to come back on notice on that.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Nothing springs to mind?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Surely we can get an answer on that today.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We're coming back to you on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But nothing springs to mind? You can't think of anything?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We've taken it on notice so we can give you a thorough answer, Senator.</p>	Page 7	SQ19-000010
33	1.3: CEWO	Senator Hanson-Young	Meetings with the Minister concerning environmental disasters in the Murray-Darling Basin	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you had any meetings with the minister directly in relation to the environmental disasters in the Murray-Darling Basin?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Not personally, no.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there anyone in your department that you know of who has met with the minister in relation to what has happened in the Murray-Darling Basin this summer?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We'll have to take that on notice. I should point out that Minister Price is Western Australia based and has a rather large electorate and so a lot of our briefings and discussions happen electronically,</p>	Page 10	SQ19-000011

				either by video conference or telephone, for obvious reasons. But I meet and discuss many things with Minister Price here in Canberra or in Sydney, wherever is convenient for the minister.		
34	1.4: BCD	Senator Chisholm	Threatened Species Commissioner briefing on Murray cod and silver perch	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I note that the minister has asked the Threatened Species Commissioner to look at Murray cod and silver perch. When was this briefing sought or request made?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That would have been after the fish kill events and, when the officers for threatened species—that's outcome 1.4—are here, we can go through the specific dates of that.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But are you aware of when the request was made for the Threatened Species Commissioner to look at this issue?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: As I said, it was part of the considerations after the first fish kill events. Obviously there's a significant amount of concern around the impact on individual species—the Murray cod, for example, being one of those. The specific dates I don't have at hand, but the officers, when they come to outcome 1.4, will be able to give you that information.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Was it not on Friday just gone?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't have that information at hand, but we're happy to provide that later on.</p>	Page 7	SQ19-000013
35	1.4: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Export of birds to Germany	<p>Senator URQUHART: Is the department concerned about the reports that we've heard through the media?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Yes. We are absolutely aware of the issue and we are looking into it.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Has a briefing been provided to the minister in relation to this issue?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't have that at hand, but the officers will be able to answer that question later on.</p>	Page 14 and 15	SQ19-000018
36	1.4: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Contact with DFAT regarding Pandas	<p>Mr Knudson: There would be the convention on the international trade in endangered species, which is the</p>	Page 15	SQ19-000024

			<p>international agreement. That would be the head of power for our taking a look at our domestic actions with this. But your question is pretty open ended. We can certainly walk through what that international agreement requires and how our domestic legislation interacts with that, when the appropriate people are at the table later today.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Has the department had discussions with DFAT or the Australian embassy in Germany about this case?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't know. We'll have to deal with that later on in the session.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I want to move to the pandas at the Adelaide Zoo. Is the department considering funding the proposal from the Adelaide Zoo to keep the two giant pandas?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That would be a budget question—therefore inside cabinet confidence, so I can't comment on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me when the funding runs out?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We'll have to confirm that later on, but I believe that it is 30 June.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: 30 June this year?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Minister Price has already indicated publicly that she is looking at those matters.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I haven't seen anything on the website. Is it a priority?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: You've had the answer from Mr Knudson that this is a matter under budget consideration. Obviously, we don't go through—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: It's just under consideration?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: and attribute star ratings to the priorities of matters under budget consideration; we go through the budget process.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Has the department been in</p>	
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				<p>contact with DFAT in relation to the issue of the pandas? Mr Knudson: Again I'll have to take that on notice. I am not sure.</p>		
37	1.4: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Threatened species listings	<p>Senator URQUHART: I might start where I left off in terms of the listings of threatened species. How many need to be completed or are underway? Mr G Richardson: Each year there's a call for public nominations, and there's a process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to prioritise species for investment. On what's termed the finalised priority assessment list—so these have been formally under assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee—there are currently 118 species. Senator URQUHART: And what are they? Mr G Richardson: They're a variety of species: birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and plants. They're all publicly available on our website. I'm happy to provide you with a link on notice. Senator URQUHART: It's on the website, is it? Mr G Richardson: Yes, it is. Senator URQUHART: Okay. Are there any being delayed in being listed? Mr G Richardson: At the time when the species are added to the finalised priority assessment list—which is an annual process, as I said—there is a deadline set for the outcome of that assessment—so the time by which the Threatened Species Scientific Committee must complete the assessment and provide it to the minister for a decision. There is also a process under the act for the TSSC, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, to seek a delay if they haven't completed the assessment within the time frame, and there are a number in that category. Senator URQUHART: How many are in that category?</p>	Page 104 and 105	SQ19-000047

38	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Threatened Species Scientific Committee – new appointments	<p>Mr G Richardson: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful. I look forward to hearing an update on that. Mr Pratt, we were asking a number of questions in this committee this morning about the activity and work done by the environment minister, Melissa Price, and a number of complaints about her inability to meet with stakeholders and sign off on various different decisions. I'm interested to read that this afternoon the minister has now announced that she's appointed new experts to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. Did you know about that this morning?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I didn't.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We most certainly knew that we had briefed the minister and that that was pending, so we're very pleased to see that announcement.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay. What prompted that? Was that a bit of bad press over the weekend, or was it knowing that you were going to be fronting Senate estimates today?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I think Mr Knudson's just said that the department had already, prior to today, briefed the minister.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You knew it was coming today?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We knew that we had briefed the minister and that it was a matter for the minister when she was going to be considering that brief to make a decision or not. But obviously she's made that decision today.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How long had those positions remained unfilled?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: The term of the previous chair, who's just been reappointed, finished, I think, at the end of November last year. The other members were a little earlier than that. I'd have to take on notice the</p>	Page 112-113	SQ19-000053
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				exact dates. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.		
39	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Australian Sea Lion assessment	Mr G Richardson: The Australian sea lion is under assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and they have not completed that assessment as yet, so I can't speak to whether it is eligible for endangered or not at this point. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How long has it been under consideration? Mr G Richardson: I would have to take that on notice. It has been on there for a few years at least. I can't remember which year it was added. It was either 2016 or 2017. I'm not sure which.	Page 113 and 114	SQ19-000054
40	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Australian Sea Lion assessment – communication with South Australian Government	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has there been any communications with the South Australian government, seeing as it is such an important species for South Australia? Mr G Richardson: I've got officers who work on these assessments on behalf of the committee and provide the assessments. I have no direct knowledge, but I'm absolutely certain they would have contacted the West Australian and South Australian governments about the Australian sea lion assessment. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could I ask you to take on notice the last communication that happened with the South Australian government? Mr G Richardson: Yes.	Page 114	SQ19-000055
41	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Australian Sea Lion assessment – oil and gas drilling in the Bight	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Richardson, will there be any discussion or consideration of the impact on the Australian sea lion of oil and gas drilling in the Great Australian Bight? Mr G Richardson: I don't have enough detailed knowledge of the assessment that's underway. Essentially, the way the assessments work is they look at the threats acting on the species over periods of time under the IUCN criteria. But I don't have direct knowledge of this particular assessment to be able to	Page 114	SQ19-000056

				<p>answer that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would that type of operation in their habitat be something that you would imagine would be considered?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: I could imagine. I can't really answer the question, as I said.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you be able to take on notice whether there have been any briefings given to the scientific committee in relation to the impact of oil and gas drilling applications in the bight?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: I can take that on notice, yes.</p>		
42	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Tammar Wallaby	<p>Senator RICE: I've got limited time; I'm sorry. I know you've got 70 species. We've got 477 species on our threatened species lists. We know that, even for those 70 that are on the priority list, the recommendations on their recovery plans aren't being implemented. We've already heard ample evidence of that in our faunal extinction inquiry. I want to move on, because I've got very limited time. The other species on which I was interested to know what actually happened was the Tammar wallaby. The update that was provided said that it's been removed from the extinct list entirely, so what's its status now?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: Its status now is that it's not eligible for listing in any category. This was a species of wallaby that there's been a taxonomic change made for, and I understand that the species that was originally listed as the South Australian subspecies is no longer considered a subspecies and in fact is enormously numerous, so it is no longer eligible for listing in any category.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So there was something that was thought to be a species that was—</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: A subspecies that was extinct.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Locally extinct?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: Extinct as a subspecies, yes.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So is it still not present in the area</p>	Page 116-117	SQ19-000058

				<p>where it was previously thought to have existed?</p> <p>Mr G Richardson: No, the separate subspecies is not. I might have to take this on notice, but my understanding is that there was a species that was thought to be a separately described subspecies and which was thought to be extinct. Upon re-examination of the taxonomy—presumably of fossils or species that were no longer there—they have now decided that they are actually the same as a species that is extant across South Australia. So it is longer threatened. It's arguably a good news story; it depends on how you look at it, I guess.</p>		
43	1.4: HRMD	Senator Urquhart	Heritage Council – assessment list	<p>Senator URQUHART: I've just got a few questions around the heritage, and then I'll go back to the parrots that I touched on earlier. What heritage items are on the assessment list for the Heritage Council?</p> <p>Mr Williams: Do you mean the entire program?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Williams: There are 11 places remaining under assessment at the moment. I'll just go through those one by one: the Coral Sea, Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve and environs, Parkes Observatory, Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park, Christmas Island natural areas, the Greater Blue Mountains Area additional values, West MacDonnell National Park—otherwise known as the MacDonnell National Park—Djulirri Rock Shelter, Moore River Native Settlement, Finnis Springs Mission and Pastoral Station, and Yalangbara.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How long will each assessment take, and when can we expect them to be completed?</p> <p>Mr Williams: Assessments take differing amounts of time, depending on the complexity of those—the consultation with stakeholders. Some of those that I mentioned are for Indigenous cultural heritage values, and quite often the consultation that is required for</p>	Page 106	SQ19-000060

				<p>those assessments to be done properly takes quite some time. That assessment period can be affected, for instance, by sorry business or by the wet season in northern Australia—so, differing amounts of time and depending on how many stakeholders are involved.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you have an expectation of the time for each of those to be completed?—putting aside some of those things that might occur.</p> <p>Mr Williams: I can go through those one by one again—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That'd be great.</p> <p>Mr Williams: or I can give those to you on notice.</p>		
44	1.4: HRMD	Senator Urquhart	National Heritage List	<p>Mr Williams: Sorry—it has been nominated and it has been listed, on the National Heritage List.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Would you be able to provide—I'm happy to take this on notice—a list of what's been assessed in the last three years and what is yet to be assessed?</p> <p>Mr Williams: I'm happy to provide that on notice.</p>	Page 107	SQ19-000063
45	1.4: HRMD	Senator Chisholm	Ministerial briefing on the fires in Tasmania	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: We've had a summer of natural disasters and ecological catastrophes. Has the Minister for the Environment sought a briefing on the fires in Tasmania?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I believe so, yes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: You believe so, or it has happened?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We are endlessly briefing ministers on things which are happening which relate to their responsibilities. I'll just check with my colleagues on whether they can think of a specific brief on that, but certainly there is a lot of material back and forth with officers.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: When the fires broke out, there was an engagement by the Tasmanian government with the department. As for the specific question about briefing, I would suggest that we come back to you later on in the day when the heritage team is at the</p>	Page 5 and 6	SQ19-000014

				<p>table and answer that specifically, because I don't recall whether a specific briefing was either sought or sent, but I do know that there was engagement with the Tasmanian government.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But what was the engagement with the minister?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That's what I would suggest we come back with later on in the day. I just don't have that at hand at this point.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Which one, do you think?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: My suspicion is that the heritage part of the department—let me just see here; 1.5 will definitely have part of it as well. That's interesting; I don't see heritage here. It's 1.4; thank you.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Knudson, you can tell us that the Tasmanian government had engagement with the department about the fires, but you can't tell us whether the minister had engagement with the department?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The reason I know the Tasmanian government had engagement was that they called me directly while I was on leave and I put them onto members of the staff. I wasn't on duty at that time, so I don't know what happened subsequently. That's the only reason.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But wouldn't the minister have picked up the phone, being concerned? It's a World Heritage area and BoM is actually in her portfolio, is it not?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm very comfortable to come back when the officers, who were here during the time when the fires broke out, are here and to provide guidance on what happened during that period. I was actually on leave at that time.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Being the Deputy Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Innovation, I look after the Bureau of Meteorology from a departmental</p>		
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				<p>perspective as well. It is certainly the case that the bureau routinely briefs the ministers when there are unusual weather events happening. So, in that context, you've brought the bureau up in relation to the fires and there would have been normal routine briefing from the bureau on what was happening.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Is there anyone who can advise us on what environmental impacts the bushfires had in Tasmania?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: As for the last figures I saw, about two per cent of the entire area of Tasmania has been affected by the fires; a significant part of that will be within the World Heritage area. Again, I think my colleagues from the heritage area will be able to give you more specifics on that, but it's quite a significant fire.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Of course, Senator, we would caveat that, acknowledging that it's early days and there are still fires burning and so, of course, full assessment, I'm sure, will take some time. Naturally, of course, given the fact that this is still a live circumstance, I'm sure we will acknowledge priority rests with ensuring every possible assistance—as I know the Bureau of Meteorology would have been doing and would still be doing—is provided to those who are seeking to control and contain those fires.</p>		
46	1.4: HRMD	Senator Chisholm	Tasmanian fires public comments made by the Minister for the Environment	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the Minister for the Environment made any public comments about the fires in Tasmania or the fires that have occurred in other regions?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm not aware, but obviously we can come back to you on that as well.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We'll take that on notice.</p>	Page 6	SQ19-000016
47	1.4: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation meeting outcome	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Good. I'm glad to hear that. Mr Pratt, did Dr Reichelt report back to you or to anyone else in the department about the outcome of that meeting and what was discussed?</p>	Page 47-48	SQ19-000040

				<p>Mr Pratt: Certainly I'll take that on notice, Senator. I'm sure that Dr Reichelt did actually report back. My very frank recollection is that it was a generally positive get-together. There were a number of distinguished people at the get-together with His Royal Highness, as you might expect on something of that sort. I was unaware of the connection with the foundation. If I did know it, I'd certainly forgotten it.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could check.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Certainly. I have no knowledge of the former Prime Minister and the timing of his contact with the foundation in relation to Prince Charles.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I would also be interested to know whether Prince Charles, in his own fundraising or his general advocacy for climate change and nature, expressed international concern for the future of the Barrier Reef? Was that something that was discussed? I understand that he is also quite close to David Attenborough, who had been running Blue Planet leading up to that, of course, and talking about the future of the reef. Was that the key reason for the meeting—to discuss the crisis on the Barrier Reef?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We'll check Dr Reichelt's report back and provide that advice.</p>		
48	1.4: HRMD	Senator Dodson	ERA Ranger Mine closure	<p>Senator DODSON: When the mine is completed what will happen to the monitoring process that, as I understand it, is currently undertaken by the Office of the Supervising Scientist, and for how long will there be any monitoring process?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Certainly, for the foreseeable future of the forwards estimates that monitoring will remain in place. The remediation works are due to continue until at least 2026. ERA is certainly committed to that, post the closure in 2021 of the production phase of the mine. So, at least as far as the forward estimates are available, we would expect that monitoring to</p>	Page 119 and 120	SQ19-000061

				<p>continue.</p> <p>Senator DODSON: As you know, the half-life of uranium is a lot longer than the forward estimates.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Very well aware, but obviously I can't—</p> <p>Senator DODSON: Are there plans to sustain this monitoring process?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: The Office of the Supervising Scientist isn't here today. We can take that on notice. They actively will be working until at least 2026 and, as you would do with any program closure, you would look at the risks and issues involved and what capability we would need beyond 2026 to be able to assure the right outcome for the closure of ERA and its operations.</p> <p>Senator DODSON: So we'll watch this space.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Yes. We'll take that on notice to make sure we've got the latest update, because the office is not here today.</p>		
49	1.4: HRMD	Senator Keneally	World Heritage Committee – health of the reef	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Mr Pratt, are you able to advise if the department has been asked to report to the World Heritage Committee on the health of the reef, or are you planning to do so, Mr Knudson?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We are planning to provide a state party report on the reef. That's due in December this year. In addition, we'll have GBRMPA's outlook report on the monitoring results on the reef that will feed directly into that report to the World Heritage Committee.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: So the monitoring report will feed into that report to that state party report in December this year?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: When was the last time you did that? Was it recently in December? Is it annual?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: It's not annual. It's on the request of the committee. I'm trying to recall the exact date. We can absolutely walk through what the whole process has been and what it will be going forward.</p>	Page 43	SQ19-000048

				<p>Senator KENEALLY: We might put that on notice rather than take time today on that.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That's fine.</p>		
50	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Joint Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement's report on the trade of ivory and rhino horn in Australia	When will the government respond to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement's report on the trade of ivory and rhino horn in Australia, especially its recommendation to close Australia's commercial markets for ivory and rhino horn?	Written	SQ19-000111
51	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn	What is the Govt's position on enacting a domestic trade ban as recommended by the inquiry report?	Written	SQ19-000112
52	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – number of seizures	Provide the figures as to the number of seizures since last estimates and a breakdown as to their composition and the plan for addressing these figures?	Written	SQ19-000113
53	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – Meeting of the Environment Ministers	According to QON 238 from 2018 Supplementary Budget Estimates, at the Meeting of Environment Ministers in December 2018, the Minister invited states and territories to review their existing regulations and consider options for a ban on domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn for further discussion at the next meeting. When is the next Meeting of the Environment Ministers?	Written	SQ19-000114
54	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – State Ministers	Did the Ministers of Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and the ACT state at that Meeting that that they were ready to cooperate with the Commonwealth on the implementation of a ban, per the correspondence that was provided by the International Fund for Animal Welfare to the Minister in September last year? Has contact been made with all states' relevant departments?	Written	SQ19-000115
55	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Australia's	What responses have states sent to the	Written	SQ19-000116

			domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – State recommendations	recommendations? Will these be made public?		
56	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Australia’s domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – working group	Has a working group or similar been set up to work on the recommendation? a. If so, how many times has it met? What meetings are scheduled? b. If not, why not?	Written	SQ19-000117
57	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Australia’s domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – COAG meetings	Has time been allocated to this topic at the relevant COAG meetings? When will these occur?	Written	SQ19-000118
58	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia’s domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – policy implementation	What is the overall timetable for implementation of this policy?	Written	SQ19-000119
59	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia’s domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn - consultation	Has the Department begun consulting with state and territory governments? If yes, which ones? If not, why not?	Written	SQ19-000120
60	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade representative	Which Australian Government representative attended the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade in November 2018?	Written	SQ19-000121
61	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	The International Fund for Animal Welfare’s submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law	How is the Department responding to the evidence in the International Fund for Animal Welfare’s submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement’s inquiry that some Australian antique stores may be trading in illegal ivory?	Written	SQ19-000122

			Enforcement's inquiry			
62	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – trafficking ivory	Is the Department working with Australian Border Force to develop strategies to address the emerging trend of trafficking ivory in personal carry-on luggage?	Written	SQ19-000123
63	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	IFAW report - inquiry into ivory and rhino horn public hearing	During the public hearings for the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement's inquiry into ivory and rhino horn, IFAW provided the Committee and the Department with an investigative report into the trade of ivory through Australian antiques dealers across the country. Did the Department take any action in response to the investigations findings which included retailers advising a potential customer how to bypass Australian customs and international CITES regulations to get the items out of Australia and into another country?	Written	SQ19-000124
64	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Illegal trade of ivory	What is the Department doing to address the illegal trade of ivory and more broadly wildlife online?	Written	SQ19-000125
65	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	2015 ANAO report – managing compliance with the wildlife trade provision of the EPBC Act	Please provide an update as to the implementation of the recommendations from the 2015 ANAO report into 'managing compliance with the wildlife trade provision of the EPBC Act'.	Written	SQ19-000126
66	1.4: BCD	Senator Singh	Banning Australia's domestic trade in Elephant Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn – CoP18	The next Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES (CoP18) will take place in Sri Lanka in May 2019. Ivory trade will again be on the agenda with pro-trade proposals being put forward to reduce protections on elephant populations in Africa. At the same time the African Elephant Coalition has put forward a proposal recognizing the significant steps may Parties have taken to close their domestic markets and highlighting this success is being undermined by other markets remaining open. Their proposal seeks to amend	Written	SQ19-000128

				Resolution Conf 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) to have all domestic markets for ivory closed. Will the Australian Government be in a position to implement the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Law Enforcement's inquiry into ivory and rhino horn to close Australia's domestic market in time for CoP18 in May?		
67	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of recovery plans	Can the department provide a list of recovery plans for which all identified recovery actions have been implemented?	Written	SQ19-000223
68	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Giant Freshwater Crayfish	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: Recovery Plan for the Giant Freshwater Crayfish (<i>Astacopsis gouldi</i>)	Written	SQ19-000224
69	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Western Ringtail Possum	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: Western Ringtail Possum (<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>) Recovery Plan	Written	SQ19-000225
70	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Numbat	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: Numbat (<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>) Recovery Plan	Written	SQ19-000226
71	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Boggomoss Snail	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: Recovery plan for the boggomoss snail <i>Adclarkia dawsonensis</i>	Written	SQ19-000227
72	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Marine Turtles	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia	Written	SQ19-000228
73	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Plains-wanderer	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: National Recovery Plan for the Plains-wanderer (<i>Pedionomus torquatus</i>)	Written	SQ19-000229

74	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Spotted-tailed Quoll	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: National Recovery Plan for the Spotted-tailed Quoll <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	Written	SQ19-000230
75	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	List of actions implemented from recovery plans – Regent Honeyeater	Can the department provide a list of actions that have been implemented from the following recovery plans: National Recovery Plan for the Regent Honeyeater (<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>)	Written	SQ19-000231
76	1.4: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery application – removal of fins	In respect of the management of sharks, including Hammerhead and Winghead Sharks, the Commonwealth Department's assessment stated that: The Department considers it important that all shark catch be landed in a form that facilitates accurate identification to species level. While the Department acknowledges some measures have been taken to assist with this, the Department remains concerned that allowing the removal of fins from the trunks of sharks in Queensland affects capacity to identify species or verify the accuracy of catch records. In assessing the Queensland Government's application, was it within the Commonwealth Government's powers to make a prohibition on the removal of fins from sharks a condition of approval?	Written	SQ19-000174
77	1.4: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery application – condition of approval	In respect of the management of sharks, including Hammerhead and Winghead Sharks, the Commonwealth Department's assessment stated that: The Department considers it important that all shark catch be landed in a form that facilitates accurate identification to species level. While the Department acknowledges some measures have been taken to assist with this, the Department remains concerned that allowing the removal of fins from the trunks of sharks in Queensland affects capacity to identify species or verify the accuracy of catch records. Did the Commonwealth Government consider a prohibition on the removal of fins from sharks being made a condition of approval?	Written	SQ19-000175

78	1.4: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Removal of fins from sharks in other states	<p>In respect of the management of sharks, including Hammerhead and Winghead Sharks, the Commonwealth Department's assessment stated that: The Department considers it important that all shark catch be landed in a form that facilitates accurate identification to species level. While the Department acknowledges some measures have been taken to assist with this, the Department remains concerned that allowing the removal of fins from the trunks of sharks in Queensland affects capacity to identify species or verify the accuracy of catch records.</p> <p>Is the removal of fins from sharks permitted in any other fisheries in any other state?</p>	Written	SQ19-000176
79	1.4: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Removal of fins from sharks in Commonwealth fisheries	<p>In respect of the management of sharks, including Hammerhead and Winghead Sharks, the Commonwealth Department's assessment stated that: The Department considers it important that all shark catch be landed in a form that facilitates accurate identification to species level. While the Department acknowledges some measures have been taken to assist with this, the Department remains concerned that allowing the removal of fins from the trunks of sharks in Queensland affects capacity to identify species or verify the accuracy of catch records.</p> <p>Is the removal of fins from sharks permitted in any Commonwealth fisheries?</p>	Written	SQ19-000177
80	1.4: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Commonwealth Government powers – removal of fins from sharks	<p>In respect of the management of sharks, including Hammerhead and Winghead Sharks, the Commonwealth Department's assessment stated that: The Department considers it important that all shark catch be landed in a form that facilitates accurate identification to species level. While the Department acknowledges some measures have been taken to assist with this, the Department remains concerned that allowing the removal of fins from the trunks of sharks in Queensland affects capacity to identify species or verify the accuracy of catch records.</p> <p>What powers does the Commonwealth Government have to prohibit the removal of fins from sharks?</p>	Written	SQ19-000179

81	1.4: BCD	Senator McKim	Threatened Species in Tasmania	There are currently 685 threatened species in Tasmania. How many of these species have recovery plans and how much are they funded? Is there any funding allocated to the hundreds of threatened species that have no funding or recovery plan?	Written	SQ19-000232
82	1.4: BCD	Senator McKim	Increase of wombats	Are there any plans to address the large increase in numbers of wombats afflicted by mange?	Written	SQ19-000233
83	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – listing status	What is the current listed status of the southern subspecies of the black-throated finch?	Written	SQ19-000130
84	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch threat	What's the biggest threat to the southern black-throated finch?	Written	SQ19-000134
85	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – extinction	Is this species more likely or less likely to continue towards extinction?	Written	SQ19-000136
86	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch recovery plan	How much would it cost to implement the finch's threatened species recovery plan, and pull it back from the brink of extinction?	Written	SQ19-000137
87	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Threatened species categorisation	What is the relationship between our threatened species categorisation under the EPBC Act and the IUCN's Threatened Species listings? Are our listings informed by the IUCN's classification?	Written	SQ19-000151
88	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Australian Sea Lions – listing and recovery plan	Would a change in the listing change the threatened species recovery plans? Is the Department concerned that delays to the change in listing and the recovery plan might affect the future of the species?	Written	SQ19-000152
89	1.4: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Australian Sea Lions	Have there been any discussions in the department about the impact on endangered Australian Sea Lion of seismic testing or an oil spill in the Great Australian Bight? Are there rules under the EPBC Act that set out how long the Minister has to make these decisions? Is the minister in breach of the EPBC Act by not meeting the statutory timeframes on these decisions?	Written	SQ19-000153
90	1.4: BCD	Senator	Importation of	What is the Department doing to ensure shark fin	Written	SQ19-000210

		Siewert	shark fin products	products that are imported to Australia do not contain threatened shark species? What kind of evidence does the industry, including those who produce and sell shark fin products, need to provide to demonstrate their products do not contain threatened shark species? Who in the industry is responsible for providing this evidence?		
91	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	EPBC listed threatened species in NSW RFA regions	How many EPBC-listed threatened species are found in each of the three NSW RFA regions?	Written	SQ19-000291
92	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	EPBC listed threatened species	How many of the EPBC-listed threatened species in each region are the subject of finalised (a) recovery plans, (b) threat abatement plans, or (c) conservation advices? Please provide a list of those that are covered and those that are not	Written	SQ19-000292
93	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Forest-dwelling or forest-dependent species	How many forest-dwelling or forest-dependent species in each of the NSW RFA regions have been moved to a higher category of threat since the RFAs were first signed?	Written	SQ19-000293
94	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Impacts and risks to EPBC listed threatened species – logging operations	Has the Commonwealth conducted any independent scientific assessment of the impacts and risks to EPBC-listed threatened species arising from the proposed new IFOAs for logging operations in the three NSW RFA regions? Given the above, how has or how will the Commonwealth satisfy itself and assure the public that proposed new logging prescriptions under NSW IFOAs, including intensified logging and reductions in buffers and habitat tree retention levels, will not breach recovery plans or conservation advices?	Written	SQ19-000294
95	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Forrest-dwelling species within RFA regions	In total, how many forest-dwelling species within RFA regions have been added to the EPBC threatened species list since the first of the NSW RFAs was signed in 1999?	Written	SQ19-000295
96	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Commitment to the	Why has the commitment to the World Heritage	Written	SQ19-000296

			World Heritage reassessment of NE NSW	reassessment of NE NSW been removed under the new NE NSW RFA?		
97	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Logging prescriptions under NSW IFOAs	What action will be taken by the Commonwealth if new logging prescriptions under NSW IFOAs do breach, or are found to be likely to breach, recovery plans or conservation advices?	Written	SQ19-000299
98	1.4 BCD	Senator Rice	Habitat loss – King Island	Can the department provide data outlining the extent of habitat loss for the King Island Scrubtit and King Island Brown Thornbill since 2000?	Written	SQ19-000260
99	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	2016 fires within the Tasmanian Wilderness	Can the Minister describe ways in which the Government has responded to the 2016 fires within the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA and, in particular, in what ways the government has responded to the recommendations of the (above) inquiry?	Written	SQ19-000234
100	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Tasmanian Wilderness WHA firefighting capabilities	What has the Minister done to help develop remote-area firefighting capabilities, particularly within the Tasmanian Wilderness WHA?	Written	SQ19-000235
101	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Fires in TWWHA – pine species	Is the Minister aware that this WHA, for which she is responsible under the WH Convention, contains ancient life forms such as King Billy pine, pencil pine and Huon pine, species that have changed little in 150 million years? Is she aware that these ancient life forms are drastically vulnerable to fire and will not recover once killed by fire?	Written	SQ19-000236
102	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Report to UNESCO – impact of the 2019 fires	Will the Minister make a report to UNESCO on the impacts of the 2019 fires on World Heritage values, particularly on the ancient king billy pines on the Denison Range?	Written	SQ19-000237
103	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Fires in TWWHA	Has the Minister sought information from Tasmania on the amount of ancient vegetation (including rain forest and alpine conifers) burnt in the 2019 spate of wild fires?	Written	SQ19-000238
104	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Tasmanian Wilderness –	Is the Minister aware of research (including the report by Tony Press for Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman)	Written	SQ19-000239

			climate change	that shows that the area burnt by lightning strikes has dramatically increased due to drier conditions within the Tasmanian Wilderness as a result of climate change?		
105	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Action to reduce climate change - Tasmanian Wilderness	What is the government doing to reduce climate change and to mitigate its impacts on areas such as the Tasmanian Wilderness?	Written	SQ19-000240
106	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Fires in TWWHA – damage to settled areas	Is the Minister aware that settled areas, including fires, towns and homes, have been threatened and damaged by fires that have burnt from remote areas into settled areas?	Written	SQ19-000241
107	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Cradle Mountain Master Plan	Why is the federal government supporting a controversial proposal which has not been the subject of any environmental impact study – particularly on World Heritage values; which has not been the subject of any publicly released feasibility study; and has yet to receive any of the requisite planning approvals? What, if any, conditions are attached to the grant? a. Is it conditional of the similar amount committed by the state government? b. Can it be spent on any aspect of the proposal? c. In the event that the proposal does not proceed, is there a requirement to repay the grant, or the unspent portion thereof? Who is the formal proponent of the proposal?	Written	SQ19-000286
108	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Cradle Mountain Master Plan – proposed cable car	Can the Minister give a guarantee that the lovely scenery of Cradle Valley and the Dove River will not be disfigured by works associated with the proposed cable car?	Written	SQ19-000287
109	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	TWWHA Lake Malbena development	How is the Lake Malbena private development and lease of an entire island within the TWWHA, consistent with the current Management Plan which prohibits construction of new buildings within the Self-Reliant Recreation Zone of the TWWHA, within which the proposed project occurs?	Written	SQ19-000288
110	1.4: HRMD	Senator	TWWHA Lake	The proposal says it is to construct ‘a small-scale	Written	SQ19-000289

		McKim	Malbena proposal	Standing Camp' but the description in the DA is for four permanent buildings made of concrete and steel (twin-share huts, kitchen, toiletry building(s)). How does the department consider that this proposal for four permanent buildings is appropriate?		
111	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	TWWHA Lake Malbena Master Plan – Tender process	A Request for Tender process for a consultant to assist the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service in the delivery of the Master Plan closed at the end of October last year. The World Heritage Committee has been asking for a Tourism Master Plan since 2015. When is the Tourism Master Plan going to be finished and what is the process for public input?	Written	SQ19-000285
112	1.4: HRMD	Senator Siewert	Shark Bay and Ningaloo	Has the Department undertaken an evaluation of the impact of climate change on the world heritage values of Shark Bay? If so, can the department outline what those impacts are? How is the Government responding to the threat that climate change poses to Shark Bay? Has any additional funding been made available to specifically address climate change? What was the expenditure on Shark Bay over the last financial years? What funding is available for Shark Bay over the forward estimates?	Written	SQ19-000207
113	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Meetings with stakeholders about the review of the EPBC Act	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Let's continue. I've asked for a list of stakeholders and you're going to get back to us on that. I've asked for some specifics in relation to that, including the Minerals Council. Has the minister had meetings with stakeholders and organisations about the review of the EPBC Act? Mr Pratt: Could you ask that question again? Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the minister had meetings with stakeholders and organisations about the review of the EPBC Act? Mr Pratt: I don't know. We would have to ask the minister. We'll take that on notice.	Page 13	SQ19-000012

				Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.		
114	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Rocky Hill judgement	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I will do that. Ms Evans, I bring your attention to the recent judgement by the Chief Justice in New South Wales. This relates to the Rocky Hill judgement, which I assume you are across and aware of. He rejected a coalmine in part on the grounds that, and I quote: The potential for a hypothetical but uncertain alternative development to cause the same unacceptable environmental impact is not a reason to approve a definite development that will certainly cause the unacceptable environmental impacts.</p> <p>You are aware of that judgement?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm aware of the judgement. The best place to ask questions is probably with our environmental standards division.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I will press on. Where would I do that?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: That is this area.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We can come back to that. While I have you here, Ms Evans, I'm interested in the climate elements of this. The judge found that the harm from a coalmine is not acceptable just because someone else might build one instead. Do you agree with that premise?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Senator, it is not my position to offer an opinion on a judge's view.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you understand the point that he is making?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, I think you are pressing me to try to express an opinion on the judge's judgement. It's not appropriate for me to do that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you, Ms Evans, see the similarity to the evidence that you've given previously that exporting LNG produces fewer carbon emissions than exporting coal?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm not sure that I see the connection</p>	Page 81 and 82	SQ19-000169

				<p>between those two things.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you looked at this judgement at all from your climate expertise and considered its ramifications?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We are aware of the judgement. We will consider it in the future.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But there hasn't been any briefing sought from you in relation to what this will mean in terms of other projects?</p> <p>Ms Evans: So in terms of other projects, again, I would refer you to outcome 1.5. My area of the department is not involved in the approval of projects.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay. Mr Pratt, where should I be asking these questions?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: On the schedule, after 9.25 pm.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If we ever get there.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Indeed.</p> <p>CHAIR: We are in your hands.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We do appear to have covered a fair bit of ground relating to some other areas recently.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes. I am an optimist as well.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to be clear, Ms Evans, no-one in your department has been asked to provide briefings on the ramifications of the judgement in relation to this coalmine?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm not sure that I'm in a position to answer that. You might have to ask again in 1.5.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I think we should ask that question at 9.25 pm.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Well, what I'm worried about, Mr Pratt, is that we won't get there. As the secretary of the department, are you aware whether there have been briefings prepared—</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator, I don't share your doomsday prognosis. I'm confident that we will get to 9.25 pm. What it is that we will be doing at 9.25 pm</p>		
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				is, of course, in the hands of the committee. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Good point. Mr Pratt? Mr Pratt: Senator, I would be surprised if we haven't provided some form of briefing on the outcome of that judgement, or it would be in train, I imagine. So I will take it on notice in the event that we don't get to 9.25 pm and do program 1.5.		
115	1.5: ESD	Senator Waters	Carmichael Mine - Moray Downs offset area – Proportion of offset obligations	Senator WATERS: What proportion of their offset obligations is apparently met by that Moray Downs west site? Mr Foster: The majority of their offset requirements. Senator WATERS: Can you be more specific? Mr Foster: I'd need to take it on notice.	Page 132	SQ19-000076
116	1.5: ESD	Senator Waters	Alpha North mine offsets	Senator WATERS: Okay. Thank you. How many hectares of offsets are located on the land that's currently the subject of that Alpha North mine application by Waratah Coal? Mr Tregurtha: I think we'd have to take that on notice to give you an accurate figure.	Page 132	SQ19-000077
117	1.5: ESD	Senator Waters	Alpha North mine – location	Senator WATERS: Is the Moray Downs site on where Alpha North want to put a mine? Mr Tregurtha: I'm not sure. We'd have to take that on notice to be accurate.	Page 132	SQ19-000078
118	1.5: ESD	Senator Waters	Adani – departmental advice to Minister	Senator WATERS: Thank you for your patience everybody. Can I just ask whether or not the department prepared any draft advice before the Adani coalmine was approved that concluded the mine would have had clearly unacceptable impacts? Mr Tregurtha: Not that I'm aware of, Senator, but we would have to take that on notice. Senator WATERS: Thank you. And likewise for the Abbot Point coal terminal approval for Adani. Was there any advice prepared that it was clearly unacceptable? Mr Tregurtha: Similar answer. I believe the answer to your question is no, but I would like to take it on notice to be sure.	Page 134	SQ19-000082

119	1.5: ESD	Senator Waters	Abbot Point – draft conditions	<p>Senator WATERS: Lastly, were there any draft conditions, avoidance or mitigation measures that were proposed or considered by the department that were not then applied as conditions on either the mine or the Abbot Point approval?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I do not believe so. My recollection—and we'll come back on notice—is that the minister added conditions into the final decision.</p>	Page 134 and 135	SQ19-000084
120	1.5: ESD	Senator Rice	Regulatory benchmarking	<p>Senator RICE: Do you do regulatory benchmarking against other environmental agencies—Commonwealth regulatory bodies?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That has been done a number of times over the course of the act. The Productivity Commission has looked at this; certainly, we have. There has been APS reviews in this space. With the review of the upcoming forward, that will also, I suspect, be another point—</p> <p>Senator RICE: When did you last do any benchmarking?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: In addition to what Mr Knudson said, I think probably the last time we did that was as part of the process of putting in place bilateral assessment agreements with the states and territories. We undertook that benchmarking exercise with all of those states and territories which we now have bilateral agreements with.</p> <p>Senator RICE: When was that?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: Around 2015-16, but I would have to take on notice exact dates.</p>	Page 135	SQ19-000086
121	1.5:ESD	Senator Waters	Great Keppel Island development	<p>1. In relation to development on Great Keppel Island, Queensland, by Tower Holdings:</p> <p>a. Were conditions on this development made under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act)?</p> <p>b. At what times were conditions made, and have they been varied at any time?</p> <p>c. If conditions variation has occurred, when, and</p>	Written	SQ19-000109

				<p>why?</p> <p>d. If conditions variation has occurred, was public consultation undertaken?</p> <p>e. If conditions variation has occurred, was internal or external advice sought from any agencies or lawyers?</p> <p>f. What involvement did the Minister have in any variation of conditions?</p>		
122	1.5:ESD	Senator Waters	Chinchilla CSG dump by WeKando	<p>1. In relation to the Council approved proposal for a 15 million tonne CSG waste dump at Baking Board Hill in Chinchilla, Queensland by company WeKando, 50m from Stockyard Creek, a tributary of the Condamine River in the headwaters of the Murray-Darling Basin:</p> <p>a. Was an EPBC referral made?</p> <p>i. If so, was the action found to be controlled?</p> <p>ii. Was the water trigger applied? If not, why not? What controlling provisions have been applied?</p> <p>b. Has the Department received any information about the proposal, from any source?</p> <p>c. Has Minister Littleproud conveyed to the Environment Minister or the Department the concerns expressed to him about this proposal by the Cameby Concerned Citizens Group?</p> <p>d. Will the Department consider whether the EPBC Act is triggered by this proposal?</p> <p>e. Will the Department prepare advice to the Minister regarding the potential for calling in the proposal?</p>	Written	SQ19-000110
123	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – projects referred to the EPBC	<p>The EPBC Act states that a native species should be considered endangered if it is not in a more acute category yet, but “it is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future”. It’s been listed this way for the last 14 years. In that time, how many projects impacting on its habitat have been referred to the EPBC?</p> <p>How many of those projects have been approved?</p> <p>Of the projects that could impact on the endangered black-throated species that have been rejected, how</p>	Written	SQ19-000131

				much of this species' habitat does that represent? Are conditions normally placed on the projects that are approved if they might have a destructive impact on critical habitats of threatened species?		
124	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – habitat offsets	How long does it take to convert land set aside for habitat offsets to an acceptable like-for-like alternative, in the case of a bird like the finch? Are there any protections from land being used to offset one area of land destroyed for mining from being destroyed itself by another mining project? Are any habitat offsets currently in place for the black-throated finch?	Written	SQ19-000132
125	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – Adani mine impacts	The largest recorded population of this species lives within the footprint of the Adani Carmichael mine. Do you know how much of the habitat of this population will be destroyed if the Adani mine goes ahead? What's the presumed impact of this habitat loss? Will this project, and these habitat offsets, in net terms, leave the species better off or worse off?	Written	SQ19-000133
126	1.5: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Black-throated finch – Adani and Galilee Basin	If this mine goes ahead, and if the projects throughout the Galilee Basin go ahead, are the prospects for this species better, or worse?	Written	SQ19-000135
127	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – Progress Report	When is the Department of Environment and Energy expecting the 2017/18 Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) Progress Report from the Victorian Government?	Written	SQ19-000250
128	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – 2020 deadline	Has the Victorian Government been in contact with the Department about whether they will meet the 2020 deadline to secure the Western Grasslands Reserve? a) What did they say? Why won't they meet the deadline?	Written	SQ19-000251
129	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – staging policy	Did the Victorian Government consult with the Department on their staging policy in 2018 which will allow developers to pay their habitat compensation fees slower?	Written	SQ19-000252
130	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic	Is the Department aware of the 6 proposed quarries in the prospective Western Grasslands Reserve that were	Written	SQ19-000253

			Assessment – proposed quarries	applied for since the Melbourne Strategic Assessment was approved?		
131	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – development opportunity	Is the Department aware that a landholder in the proposed Western Grasslands Reserve advertised around 2,500 hectares of their land as a “land banking” development opportunity last year?	Written	SQ19-000254
132	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – compliance action	What are the Department’s options for compliance action if the Victorian Government does not meet their commitments under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment?	Written	SQ19-000255
133	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment – landholders compliance	What is the Department doing to ensure that landholders in the proposed Western Grasslands Reserve are complying or will comply with the EPBC Act?	Written	SQ19-000256
134	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment	Has anyone from the Department observed the proposed “Western Grasslands Reserve” on the ground since the Melbourne Strategic Assessment was approved?	Written	SQ19-000257
135	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Referrals under the EPBC Act – King Island	Can the department provide a list of all referrals under the EPBC Act that have been determined controlled actions due to impacts on the King Island Scrubtit or King Island Brown Thornbill?	Written	SQ19-000259
136	1.5 ESD	Senator McKim	Drilling permit kunanyi/Mount Wellington	The Tasmanian permit has granted a cable car proponent a “Section 7 – Authority to enter land (Wellington Park)” for drilling in 32 location on kunanyi/Mount Wellington. Is there scope for Commonwealth intervention given the presence of EPBC species on the mountain? a. The drilling sites, particularly those in the lower, dense Myrtle Gully area are known areas of Masked Owls, Swift Parrots and the EPBC's own search tool has Wedge Tailed Eagle records as well. The extent of clearing required is completely unknown and simply up to the developers. The alpine veg clearing is also unknown. Is there a way to see if this is considered	Written	SQ19-000264

				satisfactory from a legislative POV?		
137	1.5 ESD	Senator McKim	Assessment of Dam for Swift Parrot Habitat	Are you aware that a federal government assessment, now overdue for a decision by Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price, of a dam proposed by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to supply water for an Okehampton Bay fish farm, which would flood key habitat of the critically endangered swift parrot, has been suspended – effectively stopping the clock on this assessment? How is it that the clock can be stopped on this assessment? Who asked for the clock to be stopped?	Written	SQ19-000265
138	1.5 ESD	Senator McKim	Fracking – Recommendations by NT Scientific Inquiry ‘Water Trigger’	Is the Commonwealth government in the process of amending the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) to apply the ‘water trigger’ to onshore shale gas development, as recommended (Recommendation 7.3) by the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory?	Written	SQ19-000266
139	1.5 ESD	Senator McKim	Amendment of the water trigger	When is the amendment of the ‘water trigger’, for onshore shale gas development, proposed to be enacted by?	Written	SQ19-000267
140	1.5 ESD	Senator McKim	NT Scientific Inquiry recommendations	Has the government implemented the Scientific Inquiry’s recommendation (Recommendation 7.6) that, prior to the grant of any further exploration approvals, the use of all surface water resources for any onshore shale gas activity be prohibited?	Written	SQ19-000268
141	1.5 ESD	Senator Rice	Referrals for clearing for agricultural purposes	Can the Department advise how many referrals for clearing for agricultural purposes were received by the Department per year in the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 (to date) financial years? Can the Department advise how many of these referrals resulted in decision that the referred project was a controlled action?	Written	SQ19-000243
142	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Trips to Bruny Island	How many trips to Bruny Island, Tasmania has the Department’s compliance unit undertaken since 2010?	Written	SQ19-000261
143	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Bruny Island –	How many allegations of breaches of EPBC Act has	Written	SQ19-000262

			allegations of breaches	the Department received for actions on Bruny Island since 2010?		
144	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Trips to King Island	How many trips to King Island, Tasmania has the Department's compliance unit undertaken since 2010?	Written	SQ19-000258
145	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	EPBC compliance investigations 2017-18	In 2017-18 how many EPBC compliance investigations were undertaken by the Department? How many EPBC compliance investigations were as the result as a complaint by an external party? How many EPBC compliance investigations resulted from solely departmentally initiated compliance monitoring? How many of each category have resulted in an enforcement action?	Written	SQ19-000242
146	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Compliance actions undertaken – land clearing in Queensland	Since 2012, how many compliance actions have been undertaken in relation to land clearing in Queensland? How many enforcement actions? How many prosecutions?	Written	SQ19-000244
147	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Legal actions and penalty notices	Of the nine legal actions and three penalty notices in this financial year referenced in previous testimony, how many of these were as the result as a complaint by an external party and how many resulted from solely departmentally initiated compliance monitoring?	Written	SQ19-000245
148	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Compliance monitoring figures 2017	When will the compliance monitoring program figures for 2017 be released?	Written	SQ19-000246
149	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	The Annual Compliance Plan	The Annual Compliance Plan 2018-19 seems to have been released on the Departmental website on 6 February 2019, is that correct? Was this plan agreed and in use within the Department prior to this date? If the purpose of the Annual Compliance Plan is to inform the public and the Department of the Department's priorities for compliance for the financial year, why did this take until 6 February to be released? Was there an Annual Compliance Plan for 2017-18 and if so, why was it not made public?	Written	SQ19-000247
150	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	The National Environmental	The 2016-17 Compliance Program noted that the National Environmental Significance Threat Risk	Written	SQ19-000248

			Significance Threat Risk Assessment tool	Assessment (NESTRA) tool informed the identification of priority sectors for compliance monitoring activities, but the NESTRA tool is not referenced in the 2018-19 Annual Compliance Plan. Is the NESTRA tool still in use? Will the Department please table this tool so it is on the public record?		
151	1.5 OoC	Senator Rice	Annual Compliance Plan 2018-19	The Annual Compliance Plan 2018-19 lists "... support(ing) landowners, in partnership with state based regulators, to consider state and national environmental laws in parallel when planning agricultural development" as a priority compliance outcome for 2018-19. Can the Department outline how many landowners the Department has 'supported' as part of this priority and the nature of that support?	Written	SQ19-000249
152	1.5: OoC	Senator Rice	Breach Hotline	<p>Senator RICE: I note that the environment department has on its webpage a report a breach hotline and email. Can you tell me how many individual complaints or notifications of environmental breaches the department has received by this hotline or other means?</p> <p>Ms Collins: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Is it clear from the website whether that's specific to the EPBC Act, or is it environmental breaches more broadly?</p> <p>Senator RICE: I think it's environmental breaches more broadly.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Then we would have to come back, because that's going to be something that's coordinated out of the centre of the department and sent to the various regulatory parts of the agency.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You don't have that information to hand?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No, I do not.</p>	Page 135	SQ19-000088
153	1.5: OoC	Senator Rice	EPBC Act infringement notice register	Senator RICE: I note that on your website, under the EPBC Act infringement notice register, there are no noticed issues after April 2015, and on the case	Page 136	SQ19-000090

				<p>judgement register there's nothing listed since July 2015. Is this because you haven't updated the register as you are required to by law?</p> <p>Ms Collins: We're in the process of updating our webpages. As Mr Knudson mentioned, we've just published a new compliance policy. We've published a set of compliance procedures. We've also published a document that outlines our compliance framework. That was a result of the changes made.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But it's 3½ years that you haven't updated the register or made it publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice. The infringement notices this financial year were under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act. All three of them were under that act.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but they weren't on the register. Has there been a drop in the number of infringement notices and court cases mounted? That's what there appears to be from the information that's been available.</p> <p>CHAIR: After this answer, we will have to conclude.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't believe so, but we'll have to come back with the specifics on that for you.</p>		
154	1.5: OoC	Senator Hanson-Young	Location of parrots	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Collins, please. You're not answering the questions that I've asked. I understand that you're doing all these other things in terms of smuggling. This wasn't a smuggle. Let's be very clear. You issued the permits. You let these birds legally leave Australia, into the hands of somebody who we now know has a very dubious history, and you can't tell me where the 232 birds are.</p> <p>Ms Collins: What I'm trying to outline is that we have very rigorous and thorough investigation and compliance activity around wildlife trade in general. I'm quite confident that, in the inquiries that we're making through the international channels, we will get</p>	Page 112	SQ19-000051

				<p>information. Once we get the information, we'll assess it to determine if there is any illegal activity that relates to the allegations that have been made in the media.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: If it gives any comfort, we will pursue the question about the status of the 232 birds as well.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful. I look forward to hearing an update on that.</p>		
155	1.5: OoC	Senator Waters	Adani – bore investigation	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. Did the department gather evidence about the casing material, and the diameter and depth of the bores?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice, specifically. But what we were looking at, specifically, was in relation to condition 7 of the approval, which states that mining operations must not commence until the required management plans have been approved by the minister, in writing. What we looked at was the definition of mining operations, which is defined in the approval. Specifically, exploratory surveys are not included in the definition of mining operations.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, so we're going to the definition of what 'exploratory' is. That's why I'm asking, did you look at the nature of the bores. Did you look at steel casings and not plastic casings, for example?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice, but we did look specifically at the nature of the bores. Specifically on the question about dewatering, Adani actually notified the department on 17 November 2017, in writing, of project activities being planned and proposed to be undertaken. That included the installation of groundwater-monitoring bores, exploratory drilling to investigate groundwater flow rates and, specifically, no dewatering to occur.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, I know that's what they said, but it's your job to check whether they're being</p>	Page 130	SQ19-000067

				<p>fulsome in their use of the truth.</p> <p>Ms Collins: Yes, that's right. As I said, we went up, we collected information from a range of sources, we sought our own expert advice and we determined that the activity that had occurred was consistent with their explanation.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm sorry to belabour this, but I do have some specific questions. You're saying you can't answer me on whether you checked about the material that was used for casing the bores?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I've said I'll take that on notice; I haven't got that specifically.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: And the diameter of the bores? Did the department look at that?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We'll take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Ms Collins: My recollection is we did, but I'll take it on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. And likewise, the depth of the bores—were they examined?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I'll take that on notice.</p>		
156	1.5: OoC	Senator Waters	Adani – bore investigation – equipment used	<p>Senator WATERS: When you say you looked at it, did you use any equipment, or did you just look with the naked eye?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take on notice what equipment, if any, we took there.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. How else would you ascertain the depth and the precise diameter, for example?</p> <p>Ms Collins: There were a range of things they were looking at, and, as I say, I'll take that question on notice.</p>	Page 131	SQ19-000070
157	1.5: OoC	Senator Waters	Adani – bore investigation – Monitoring plan	<p>Senator WATERS: How does the investigation compare with those that have previously been conducted as compliance and monitoring for other mines, particularly in how long you spent onsite?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I don't have those details in front of me, but usually we would do a monitoring plan, and how</p>	Page 131	SQ19-000068

				<p>long we needed to spend there would depend on the scope of what we're looking at on the site.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What's a monitoring plan?</p> <p>Ms Collins: In terms of conducting our monitoring audit, we plan what we do before we go.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did you do that this time?</p> <p>Ms Collins: We certainly did planning, yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did you do a monitoring plan?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I'd probably use that term loosely, rather than as a formal document.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Would you normally use it loosely, or would there normally be a formal document?</p> <p>Ms Collins: We normally do quite a bit of detailed planning before we go and do a site inspection, because we need to know what we're looking at to determine the points of evidence that we'll need.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did that occur this time? Was that formal monitoring plan prepared, like you say you normally do?</p> <p>Ms Collins: If you're asking in terms of a document, I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Well, you raised it, so please do.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The piece that I would point out is that, obviously, the allegation was made on the 12th, and officers went up on the 13th. So, the extent to which they did extensive planning, we'll have to take that on notice.</p>		
158	1.6: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Single use plastics	Has the Department done any work on single use plastics?	Written	SQ19-000138
159	1.6: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Single use plastics – environmental challenges	Is the Department aware of environmental challenges posed by single use plastics?	Written	SQ19-000145
160	1.6: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Single use plastics - documentation	Can the department provide documentation of any work done on single-use plastics?	Written	SQ19-000147
161	1.6: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Threatened species and single use	Do single use plastics feature as a threat for any of our threatened species?	Written	SQ19-000149

			plastics			
162	1.6: ESD	Senator Hanson-Young	Single use plastics - solutions	What solutions has the Department considered for dealing with single use plastics?	Written	SQ19-000150
163	1.6: ESD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Policy action plan	Has the government made additional Commonwealth funding for the National Waste Policy action plan conditional upon further funding commitments from state and territory governments?	Written	SQ19-000170
164	1.6: ESD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Policy action plan – landfill levies	Has the government expressed to state and territory governments a desire for state and territory governments to hypothecate more of their revenue collected from landfill levies towards the National Waste Policy action plan?	Written	SQ19-000171
165	1.6: ESD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Policy action plan – Commonwealth funding	What level of Commonwealth funding was directed towards the implementation of the 2009 National Waste Policy and the 2018 National Waste Policy in each the financial years since COAG endorsed the 2009 National Waste Policy in 5 November 2009?	Written	SQ19-000172
166	1.6: ESD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Policy action plan – funding committed	What level of Commonwealth funding been committed to the implementation of the 2018 National Waste Policy over the forward estimates?	Written	SQ19-000173
167	2.1: CCD	Senator Chisholm	Approval of the emissions projections material	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: When were the latest emission projections completed and ready for release, from the department's point of view?</p> <p>Ms Evans: All the projections are published in December; I would have to check the exact date.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: It was the Friday before Christmas, wasn't it?</p> <p>Ms Evans: That's about right. Only a week or so before that we were finalising them. I recall looking at a draft before I left for Poland, which was around 9 December. It was fairly quickly between then and when they were released.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Would it be possible to get the specific dates around that?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we can take that on notice and perhaps come back to it just after lunch, when we have the relevant people here and can give you the</p>	Page 8-9	SQ19-000009

				<p>date of the briefing.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Yes; and when they were provided to the minister's office. Were any changes made to the projections, including the public document to be released with the emissions data after they were provided to the minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: When did the minister's office approve the materials to be released?</p> <p>Ms Evans: They were released, as you said, I think it was, on 21 December. You're looking for when they decided to release them on that date?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>		
168	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Emission Reductions by sector	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you outline to me by sector what those mechanisms will be to get the intended emissions reduction?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I think we are probably best to refer to the report in terms of the sectoral analysis.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: For example, transport emissions, industrial process emissions, electricity sector emissions and agricultural emissions. What emissions reductions have they achieved?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm just waiting to see if Ms Tilley can provide some detail. Certainly the 2017 review went through them. I think there's a table at the back of that report that lays out the different policy mechanisms as they affect each of the individual sectors. We do have some information about where the emissions reductions have come from by sector, which we'll get to in a moment. On the growth side of the equation, I guess, is the growth in the export of liquid natural gas. We've also had some growth in the manufacturing of steel and so on, which has also been putting pressure on the emissions in an upwards direction. We will get the detail. It will take a bit of time.</p> <p>Ms Tilley: I want to clarify. Was the question about</p>	Page 53 and 54	SQ19-000094

				<p>what policies target particular sectors or what have been the emissions changes?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you outline them by sector? What are the mechanisms for each sector?</p> <p>Ms Tilley: The Emissions Reduction Fund is for the whole of the economy, so it has a range of project opportunities across the economy. Traditionally, it has supported projects in the land and vegetation sector.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry. The question is: what emission reductions have those sectors achieved?</p> <p>Ms Tilley: Over what period of time? Are we talking about projections?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Up to 2020.</p> <p>Ms Tilley: I don't know that we can right here and now talk about each individual policy and what it might have achieved. I will give you the reasons for that. The government has made major investments through ARENA and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to invest in early stage R&D for a range of renewable and clean energy technologies right through to implementation. So because a lot of them are that early stage investment, you don't see the direct correlation in a space of time as to what an emissions outcome might be. That might drive transformation over a much longer period of time. On the other side of the equation, the Emissions Reduction Fund has, through its eight auctions to date, contracted over 190 million tonnes of abatement that will be delivered and contribute to the 2030 target. So there's a proportion that is pre-2020 and there's a proportion that is post-2020. I don't have the specific breakdowns in front of me, but we can certainly give them.</p>		
169	2.1: CCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Methane capture from landfill	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Just one last question, and you may need to take it on notice. I was reading in the <i>National waste report</i> about the methane capture from landfill—not from incineration but from landfill. Unfortunately, the copy I printed was not very good;</p>	Page 126	SQ19-000093

				<p>otherwise, I would get you a copy of it. I might get you that afterwards. There seems to have been quite a dramatic fall-off in methane capture around the country, which is odd, considering that landfill has been increasing. Actually, in Brisbane I've been out to look at various methane capture plants from landfill. Is there any explanation as to why methane capture has fallen off so radically in the last four or five years?</p> <p>Dr Kiessling: We would have to come back to you with the detail on that. The figures presented in the <i>National waste report</i> are complex and I wouldn't want to mislead you. So we'll come back to you.</p>		
170	2.1: CCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Report 2018 – energy recovery	<p>Re: <i>National Waste Report 2018: Figure 21 Trends in energy recovery from core waste by jurisdiction, Australia 2006-07 to 2016-17</i></p> <p>What has caused the drop off in energy recovery from core waste, particularly methane collection?</p>	Written	SQ19-000191
171	2.1: CCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	National Waste Report 2018 – methane from landfill	<p>Re: <i>National Waste Report 2018: Figure 21 Trends in energy recovery from core waste by jurisdiction, Australia 2006-07 to 2016-17</i></p> <p>The report states that one factor might be “reduced landfill operator interest in collecting landfill gas”. What would have caused a reduced interest in collecting methane from landfill?</p>	Written	SQ19-000192
172	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Review of the new air pollution standards	<p>The review of the standards for Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulfur Dioxide and Ozone under the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality was announced 5 years ago. What is the timeframe for the NEPC to finalise new air pollution standards for these pollutants?</p> <p>a. When will public consultation commence?</p>	Written	SQ19-000193
173	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Non-government stakeholders - national air pollution standards	<p>The review of the standards for Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulfur Dioxide and Ozone under the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality was announced 5 years ago. What steps is the Department taking to ensure non-government stakeholders including community,</p>	Written	SQ19-000194

				environment and health groups that their input will be considered in this review of national standards? a. Please give details of all the steps taken.		
174	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	National air pollution standards	The review of the standards for Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulfur Dioxide and Ozone under the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality was announced 5 years ago. Has the Commonwealth considered the merits of a national approach to setting air pollution standards instead of relying on the process of seeking consensus between states and territories? a. If yes, please provide details. b. If not, why not?	Written	SQ19-000195
175	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Science-based pollution standards	The review of the standards for Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulfur Dioxide and Ozone under the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality was announced 5 years ago. Has the Department done any work on or recommendation for Commonwealth laws for an independent national Environment Protection Agency to set science-based pollution standards that are binding on all State and Territory governments?	Written	SQ19-000196
176	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	World Health Organisation's recommended standards	The World Health Organisation's recommended standards for ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide standards are one-tenth Australia's current standards (a one-hour average of 7.6 parts per billion). These recommendations were set by WHO in 2005. Why is the Australian standard 10 times weaker than the standard recommended 14 years ago by the World Health Organisation?	Written	SQ19-000197
177	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	World Health Organisation's recommendations – SO2 pollution	What steps has the Department taken over the last 14 years since the WHO reduced its guidelines for SO2 pollution to 7 parts per billion, to provide the people of Australia with this greater degree of protection?	Written	SQ19-000198
178	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	NOx and SO2 standards	Are there any plans to fast-track the setting of strong NOx and SO2 standards?	Written	SQ19-000199
179	2.1: CCD	Senator	Coal power stations	Coal power stations are the single biggest source of	Written	SQ19-000200

		Faruqi	– SO2 and NOx in Australia	SO2 and NOx in Australia. Stack limits would set stronger benchmarks and improve community health outcomes. Has the Department considered the merits of setting standards for power station stack emissions in addition to ambient air? a. If yes, has the Department provided advice to the Government on setting standards for power station stack emissions in addition to ambient air?		
180	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Monitoring of stack emissions and ambient air near coal-fired power stations	Has the Department considered requiring continuous monitoring of stack emissions and ambient air near coal-fired power stations, so that air pollution data can be reported publicly in real time? a. Has any advice been provided to the Government regarding mandatory continuous monitoring?	Written	SQ19-000201
181	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Compliance with the NEPM standards	National air pollution standards are routinely exceeded in many locations including communities where coal power stations and mines are located. How does the Department ensure compliance with the NEPM standards?	Written	SQ19-000202
182	2.1: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Ambient air monitoring and air pollution	Based on ambient air monitoring at 44 locations throughout NSW during 2018, is air pollution getting worse? Are current pollution control programs and activities adequate to ensure compliance with NEPM standards?	Written	SQ19-000203
183	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Climate Solutions Fund	Please provide an underlying cash balance and headline cash breakdown by financial year to 2022-23 and over the medium-term of the \$2 billion expenditure announced as part of the Climate Solutions Fund.	Written	SQ19-000284
184	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Climate Solutions Package	Please provide an underlying cash balance and headline cash breakdown by measure and by financial year to 2022-23 and over the medium-term of the remaining aspects of the Climate Solutions Package.	Written	SQ19-000283
185	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Climate Solutions Package – policy measures	The government has cited emission reductions to be achieved under the climate solution package by sub measure. For example, the electric vehicle strategy is cited as delivering 10 million tonnes of abatement by	Written	SQ19-000282

				<p>2030.</p> <p>Can the department provide details of the specific policy measures that underlie emission abatement results presented in the climate solutions package?</p> <p>Can the department provide details on how emission abatement results presented under the climate solutions package were calculated?</p>		
186	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Keneally	Katowice conference	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you very much. My questions relate to the Ambassador for the Environment's participation in the Katowice conference. I don't know if we need additional people.</p> <p>Ms Evans: That part of the environment is actually part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We can attempt to answer questions if we know them factually. He actually isn't in our portfolio.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Well, perhaps I can ask a few questions and see where we get to. I appreciate that advice, Ms Evans. Did the Ambassador for the Environment, Mr Suckling, inform the Minister for the Environment that he was participating in the official United States side event at the Katowice conference in December 2018?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take it on notice to confirm. We certainly were aware that he was participating in it, so I imagine he did.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: You were aware he was participating in it?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: But you can't advise if the minister was aware?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'm confident she would have been aware because we would have talked about it. But I don't know. You asked whether he had directly briefed her. I would have to check if that was the case or not.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Okay. So we don't know if he advised, but you understand she would have been aware that he was participating in that?</p>	Page 56	SQ19-000096

				Ms Evans: Yes.		
187	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Keneally	Fossil fuels	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Minister Birmingham, does the Minister for the Environment think Australia's reputation is well served as being the only foreign country represented on the Trump administration's promotion of fossil fuels at that conference?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator Keneally, I'll take the question on notice because I would be particularly cautious about accepting the framing of your question in that way.</p>	Page 56	SQ19-000098
188	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Keneally	Australia's Ambassador for the Environment nameplate	<p>Senator KENEALLY: It is a serious question. You might be right. I have phrased it somewhat entertainingly, but it is a serious question. Why was Australia's Ambassador for the Environment wearing a nameplate that had his name and an American flag on it?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think we'll take it on notice to find out if it was an administrative approach that the host had used, if it is true. I am afraid I don't know. I wasn't there.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I suggest that we might take it on notice to get the Department of Foreign Affairs to answer.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: They will be available on Thursday.</p>	Page 57	SQ19-000099
189	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Keneally	Katowice conference – panel discussions	<p>Senator KENEALLY: I actually asked it to confirm if that was the case. Now you've co-hosted a side event with New Zealand.</p> <p>Ms Evans: As I say, it was a reception for the Pacific islander leaders.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: A reception. Were there any speeches or panel discussions?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes. There were speeches by both the minister and the minister from New Zealand. They both spoke at the event. I'm sorry, but I'm struggling to remember exactly what they all were. We can take on notice to give you a list of them, if you like. We were quite active participants as Australia and with</p>	Page 57	SQ19-000107

				the minister in particular in a number of side events.		
190	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Keneally	Katowice conference – media adviser	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Did the minister give any interviews to the media while she was at Katowice?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We took that on notice this morning, Senator.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Excellent. Thank you. What was the cost of the media adviser's attendance to the Australian taxpayer?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think that will be a question for the Department of Finance, but we can endeavour to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Minister, was the minister instructed not to speak to the media by the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I wouldn't have thought so.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: You wouldn't have thought so, but you don't know?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I will take it on notice. I would not have thought so, but I will take it on notice.</p>	Page 57-58	SQ19-000106
191	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Hanson-Young	LNG exports calculations	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In response to question on notice No. 140 from estimates last, the department says the following: Globally Australia's LNG expansion is contributing to a reduction in global emissions. Displacement of coal in mainly Japan, China and Korea with Australian LNG exports would have reduced emissions in these countries in the order of 130 megatonnes of CO2 emissions in 2017-18.</p> <p>How have you calculated that?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I might ask Mr Sturgiss to help explain.</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: The carbon content of natural gas is significantly lower than the carbon content of coal. Those calculations potentially reflect those intrinsic properties of coal versus natural gas. That is essentially the difference between them.</p>	Page 60-61	SQ19-000105

				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you give us the calculations on notice that you've used to calculate that exact figure?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: Yes, I can.</p>		
192	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Storer	Kyoto Protocol	<p>Senator STORER: Are there other parties to the Kyoto Protocol that also use carryover to meet their Paris agreement targets?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think it's too early to say on that front.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: To the Kyoto Protocol? I'm not sure about other countries. I guess we would (a) take that on notice and (b) say yes, there is the reconciliation that occurs to that 2020 target that will happen in the years following 2020. Australia is well placed at present, as we've outlined. But carryover is an existing feature of the Kyoto framework.</p>	Page 62	SQ19-000104
193	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Leyonhjelm	Greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2030	<p>Senator LEYONHJELM: So, ahead of that, will the department consider establishing its own estimates, not necessarily official estimates, from the countries in question of their greenhouse gas emissions for the period somewhere between 2020 and 2030?</p> <p>Ms Munro: There's a difference between keeping track of, I think, the official estimates that countries provide to the UNFCCC, other estimates from international bodies and some of the statements or policies and projections that would appear on websites or statements. We don't have estimates, but we do track those things very closely as well. That does help us inform what Australia's position and targets should be.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: So are you in a position, then, to provide this committee with your best estimates as to the situation in Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, India and Brazil in relation to their emissions?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We can take that on notice as long as you are happy that we will add some caveats.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: Some qualifications are fine, yes. No problem at all. Thank you, Chair.</p>	Page 64	SQ19-000102

194	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Chisholm	Offshore wind farm proposal	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Are you aware of the proposal to develop Australia's first offshore wind farm in Commonwealth waters south of Victoria developed by Offshore Energy?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: My apologies, that was under outcome 2, in fact, not outcome 4. The good news is that Ms Evans is here and will attempt to answer your question.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we are aware of the proposal.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the department been in contact with Offshore Energy about this project?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Can you provide us with a brief summary of the project and a summary of where it is up to in terms of approvals?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Maybe rather than a specific project, I will just describe the situation. Because there's no existing regulatory framework for developing offshore wind or providing a licence for offshore wind, we have been dealing with the proponent to talk through how we would do a bespoke licensing arrangement to allow them to do just the exploration work for what they have proposed. In the process of doing that, we included a public call for expressions of interest or comments on the proposal in December 2017, actually. We've been working through the various regulatory issues and requirements that would be necessary to support the government taking that kind of fairly bespoke approach to the project.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: When did Offshore Energy first talk to the department about the project?</p> <p>Ms Evans: It would have been earlier in 2017. I would have to take on notice exactly when the date was. But the project has certainly been around for a long time. It is because the circumstances are so complicated without there being an existing regulatory framework to handle what they are proposing to do,</p>	Page 79 and 80	SQ19-000101
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				<p>which is offshore—so outside of state controlled waters in Commonwealth waters. It has taken a long time to work through all the various issues.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: When did you first receive the application for the licence in the form that is currently under review now?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I will have to take that on notice. We have been working with the proponents around the actual form of the licence, so it has been quite an iterative process.</p>		
195	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Chisholm	Offshore wind farm proposal - licence	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Is the licence expected to allow any seismic exploration?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'll have to take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Would you be able to elaborate what kind of exploration is currently being contemplated under the licence?</p> <p>Ms Evans: It is very much an exploration of what the nature of the wind resource is like in the area. But as to exactly what the proponent is proposing to do to make those, I'll have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: And what about the potential environmental impacts of these forms of exploration?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'll take it on notice. My understanding is that those have all been considered. Again, while there is no regulatory framework for offshore wind, we are drawing from the existing frameworks for offshore oil and gas exploration and so on to make sure that all of the necessary projections are in place under this quite bespoke arrangement. Perhaps it is important to just comment that this is only a licence to explore the resource in the area. It doesn't provide any authority to proceed with any development. That will be a separate decision that will come later.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the department issued a recommendation on this licence to the minister?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We are briefing the minister.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the department issued a</p>	Page 80	SQ19-000100

				<p>recommendation as part of that briefing? Mr Pratt: Well, there would have been a recommendation for the minister. Senator CHISHOLM: And when did it make this recommendation? Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice.</p>		
196	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Faruqi	National Pollution Inventory reporting	<p>Could the current National Pollution Inventory scheme be improved to increase the accuracy and rigour of power stations' pollution reporting?</p>	Written	SQ19-000204
197	2.1 ICCEID	Senator Rice	Land clearing	<p>Can the department outline the trajectory of land clearing in Queensland since 2011? Can the department provide an estimate of nationally threatened species habitat which has been lost in Queensland since 2011?</p>	Written	SQ19-000263
198	2.2: CCD	Senator Chisholm	Ministerial briefing on the Queensland floods	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has the Minister for the Environment sought a briefing on the floods that have occurred in northern Queensland and north-west Queensland? Mr Pratt: The same set of answers as to the fires in Tasmania apply here. I am almost 100 per cent positive that there has been briefing supplied through the department and via relevant agencies like BoM, as Ms Evans has identified, for ministers on these matters. Senator CHISHOLM: But no-one can actually say that actually is the case? Ms Evans: I can certainly confirm that the minister was directly briefed by the bureau on the flood situation in Queensland. Senator CHISHOLM: What about the department? Ms Evans: That I will have to take on notice; it's not from my own area.</p>	Page 6	SQ19-000006
199	2.2: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Economic analysis – climate change and global market shifts	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me what economic analysis the government has done in looking at the risks to the Australian economy from climate change and global market shifts? Ms Evans: I'll have to take that on notice. Maybe we</p>	Page 17	SQ19-000026

				can come back to it when my team is here after lunch. Again I don't think we, as the department, have commissioned anything specific on that. There is quite a lot of work that is done more generally in the academic world and through places like the IPCC that is looking at those questions. We haven't thought to try to replicate that from within the department.		
200	2.2: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Reports on adapting to climate change	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. I have just a couple around adaptation to climate change. We didn't call 2.2, but if you can tell me what programs or reports that adapting to climate change is working on and when does the department expect those reports to be published?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The main report, if you like, that we have been working on is a document called the <i>Climate Compass</i>, which is a tool designed to help government entities look at the climate risk associated with their programs and policies. I will have to check. We can come back and confirm in 2.1—even though you're right that we didn't list 2.2—when we published that, but I believe it's already on the website.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We are actively managing not so much reports but processes through the government. I co-chair with the Department of Home Affairs' disaster and climate risk resilience working group, where we are constantly being briefed and considering the impacts of climate change on the various policies and things that we are responsible for. We are actively involved in the state and territory adaptation working group as well. That gives you a little bit of a sense of what we're working on.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What's the current budget for adaptation?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 20	SQ19-000025
201	2.2: CCD	Senator Storer	Percentage of carbon abatement –	<p>Senator STORER: I have a question which may possibly stray into the next session. I'm not sure. I'll</p>	Page 62 and 63	SQ19-000103

			energy efficiency measures	<p>see. It's really to do with carbon abatement being achieved by energy efficiency measures. I will have a go. What is the estimated percentage of carbon abatement being achieved by energy efficiency measures?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We might have to take it on notice. It is actually something that we do estimate in my group. I know it's substantial. We don't have a number here. It is quite a significant contribution because it is such low cost and effective abatement. So we know it has contributed quite a bit.</p> <p>Senator STORER: I'm interested to know what plans are in place to increase them? You said it is low cost. What plans are in place to increase the percentage of carbon abatement achieved through energy efficient measures?</p> <p>Ms Evans: There's quite a lot of work underway under the national energy productivity plan, which is the umbrella framework for all the energy efficiency measures. So we have a regular program. The actual programs themselves here are represented in the next group in energy. If you want some more detail, they can give that to you there. There is an ongoing program of looking at minimum energy performance standards for appliances and so on, which they've generally expanded over time. We have information and campaigns about using more energy efficient products, including labelling requirements. There is a range of other work. Fairly recently there was an announcement of work done under the COAG Energy Council to have a trajectory for low emissions buildings. So these are all the kinds of things that are underway with energy efficiency improvements across the economy.</p>		
202	2.3: ICCEID	Senator Duniam	Hydrogen as an energy resource	How is the Government supporting the development of hydrogen as an energy resource?	Written	SQ19-000163
203	2.3: ICCEID	Senator	Hydrogen projects	What hydrogen projects has the Government invested	Written	SQ19-000164

		Duniam		in or provided support to?		
204	3.1: AAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Kunlun and Taishan bases operated by the Chinese in the Australian Antarctic claim	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I won't take long. I just have some questions in relation to the Kunlun and Taishan bases operated by the Chinese in the Australian Antarctic claim. I know you've talked a little bit about going to Beijing and conducting negotiations. What I would like to know is whether you have any plans to inspect those bases?</p> <p>Mr Clark: The Antarctic Treaty provides provisions for the inspection of Antarctic bases. That's an important part of the transparency and of the treaty system. We, on occasion, conduct inspections of a range of bases in Antarctica as part of our program. We have a strategy to continue to do that. It is not something that we do or need to broadcast in advance and we wouldn't necessarily flag any future inspections through this process. But what we do aim to do through the inspection process is ensure that countries that we are inspecting are given sufficient notice to support any visit by the program.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you had any inspections on those two specific bases in recent times?</p> <p>Mr Clark: No, we have not.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have any plans to? Have you informed, as you said that you would, China that you would want to be able to inspect those bases?</p> <p>Mr Clark: As I said before, we don't flag in advance where we may go to conduct inspections. Obviously we do it in a sufficient time frame to let countries know, in particular by the necessary logistics of—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What kind of logistics are required for something like that?</p> <p>Mr Clark: The logistics required depend on the facility to be inspected. It may be something like overnight accommodation or a ski-way to support</p>	Page 23	SQ19-000027

				<p>aircraft operations. It really depends on the facility being inspected.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm asking about two specific bases. I'd like to know what logistics would be required. Is that overnight accommodation? I would also like to know what kind of budget would fit, to facilitate an inspection.</p> <p>Mr Clark: Through this process, I don't think it would be appropriate to say that we are inspecting those locations or to go into the details.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But if you were to do so, how much money would it cost?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I'd have to take that on notice because of the timing of the year, the logistics and what you would agree in terms of level of accommodation, and to what extent that would cost. Part of it would be speculative, but we will take it on notice and see what information we can give you, to help with that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could, that would be helpful. I'm interested in what the logistics would be for those two specific bases and the indicative cost.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Some of it will be speculative because it depends on the nature and the time of year. We will get back to you on that.</p>		
205	3.1: AAD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Research on zooplankton	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: This committee a few years ago saw the work being done down in the AAD's laboratory in Hobart. How sensitive were the larvae and the small krill to very small changes in ocean acidification? Can you tell us at least that much?</p> <p>Dr Fenton: We can send you more detail. We can send a copy of the paper to you, if you'd like that. They were quite sensitive. Hatching rates were quite a concern at the higher levels of where CO2 could go in the IPCC scenarios. For the moment it's okay under the conditions that we are seeing in the ocean. We can</p>	Page 25	SQ19-000028

				<p>send you more detail, if that would be of use.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. I understand that the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies released a report only a few weeks ago about new research looking at seismic surveys on zooplankton. Have you been involved in that research paper at all, or with any of that work?</p> <p>Dr Fenton: I'd have to take on notice whether they've worked with us directly. I am aware of the work but I haven't followed it quite as closely as might be useful. If there is anything in particular that I can take on notice, I'm happy to do so.</p>		
206	3.1: AAD	Senator Patrick	Damen contract	<p>Senator PATRICK: I think you said a 12-week delay, but I won't split hairs over that. With all blocks to be assembled, that milestone is to be completed on 30 March. Do you think you will be commencing harbour acceptance testing on 5 June?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: At this stage the rest of the program looks pretty stable, from the information we are getting from both Serco and Damen. We intend to start set-to-work on some of the ship systems commencing in the middle of March, so everything flows out of that. At this stage we are reasonably confident that that will happen.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: I know we've discussed in the past that the cost of these delays will be borne by the contractor, but there are costs on the Commonwealth side, in that you have a project team that is running on. Could you give me the size of the team that you have that are Commonwealth employees or Commonwealth contractors that are not covered by the Damen contract?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: At the moment we have a small project team of five people that are Commonwealth employees, and part of my time as well is attributed to the project.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Could you perhaps estimate at</p>	Page 25-26	SQ19-000029

				<p>this stage, projecting out to the end of the project, how much additional cost will be borne by the Commonwealth for your own internal personnel team? If you could take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: I will take that on notice.</p>		
207	3.1: AAD	Senator Patrick	Aurora Australis	<p>Senator PATRICK: Obviously if this ends up resulting in a delay—and in my life in project management very rarely do you see something come back on time once it's slipped—there will be a cost of keeping <i>Aurora Australis</i> running for longer. Are you in a position, on notice, to calculate what you estimate the cost will be for running the <i>Aurora Australis</i> for longer?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: I will take that on notice. It's a pretty broad question because <i>Aurora Australis</i> comes to the end of her life in April 2020 and there will be significant work associated with keeping her in survey, which we're not privy to, but at the same time we are also looking at other contingencies to cover any capability gap that we have at the moment, or expect.</p>	Page 26	SQ19-000030
208	3.1: AAD	Senator Carr	Funding arrangements	<p>Senator KIM CARR: To follow on from some of the points that Senator Patrick has been making, I'm interested to know what has been the proportionate share of the funding arrangements under the funding agreement, the five-year funding agreement, between the Antarctic Division and the Department of Science from its inception, which I understand is due to come to an end. Is that the case?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Can I clarify: are you talking about science funding?</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Yes, the science funding. There was a funding agreement that was put in place, with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science putting in five million a year.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Through the CRC.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Through the CRC. The CRC</p>	Page 27	SQ19-000097

				<p>finishes up in June 2019. What was the environment department's funding contribution through the Antarctic Division to that funding agreement?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I might get Mr Clark to expand on that. The government recently announced the continuation of the \$5 million of CRC funding in terms of a new partnership, a science partnership—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: And who would be funding that?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: That's coming through the industry portfolio.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So it's a departmental appropriation, is it?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I don't have it. I will have to get one of the others to answer the detail. There was also \$8 million worth of ARC funding, collating to a total of \$13 million, and the government announced that that would be continued.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: And how much is the—</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Sorry, I will just clarify: it's not ARC anymore, but there was in total \$13 million worth of funding continued.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Thirteen?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Yes, five from the industry portfolio and another \$8 million through the education portfolio.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: How much is the Antarctic Division putting in?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I will get Charlton Clark to answer that.</p> <p>Mr Clark: Those figures of \$5.1 and \$8 million are the contributions of Industry and Education respectively. The contribution of the AAD to Antarctic science is far broader than just simply these measures. When you ask what is the contribution to that specific proposal, much of our contribution is determined by which science projects are eventually supported. So our contribution flows through not just the work of our science branch but the logistics of the</p>		
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				<p>operations and the capacity on our stations to support it. To put a value cost on that really depends on which projects eventually are agreed by those initiatives to be undertaken.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So you can't tell me how much you're putting in?</p> <p>Mr Clark: Until the specifics of each of the research projects are confirmed. That process at the moment is under way, and I think it's the sort of question that we could provide quite some detail to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Sure. I appreciate you'd like to take it on notice, but I'm looking for a specific figure. What you're saying is you can't give me one.</p>		
209	3.1: AAD	Senator Carr	Scientific measures	<p>Mr Cahill: In terms of our arrangements with the CRC—and I am on the CRC board—and a lot of the support for CRC projects, if we are doing voyages or activities in the Antarctic continent and they can join those activities at no cost to the Antarctic Division, we don't charge them in any form or sense. It's only when there is a major change in the course of our operations that we look at what is the appropriate charge.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So how do you respond to the charge of somewhat rubbery figures coming out of the Antarctic Division on this matter?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I disagree with it.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So you will take on notice what the actual charges are?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We will take on notice our costings to support our—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What about the allegation that there is actually going to be a gap in the capabilities given that the new vessel won't come on stream until—what is it?—2021. The new icebreaker won't come into operation until 2021 and there will be a capability gap in the Australian research science. What do you say to that proposition?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I think that's not the right phrasing. There</p>	Page 27-28	SQ19-000095

				<p>will be changes in terms of the access to science over a period of five years as we commission and bring on board a new icebreaker that will give access to scientific capability unprecedented in terms of Australia's Antarctic capability. By its nature, you have to test the ship; you have to change some of the access to science. So there will be a change in the level of access across the whole spectrum over a number of years, culminating in what is going to be a significant leapfrog and step forward in terms of the science that we can conduct down in the Antarctic continent and in the Southern Ocean.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So you're saying that we will be able to measure this, will we?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Consistent with the science governance measures, we are looking through the measures to be able to track our science work and the key measures that indicate our capability.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Tell me: how are we going to measure this?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We will work through that. That's part of the process.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Perhaps you can specify what these measurements will be?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I will have to take that on notice.</p>		
210	3.1: AAD	Senator Carr	Clarke review	<p>Senator KIM CARR: What peer review process was put in place along with the so-called Clarke review? What peer review process was put in place to evaluate that approach to ensure that that was a proper process?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: There was wide consultation by Dr Clarke across all the portfolios and key stakeholders, including CRC's esteemed people in the scientific community. The report was then submitted to government and they responded and agreed or agreed in principle to all recommendations, and we are in the process of implementing that review.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: And you say that's all</p>	Page 28	SQ19-000091

				<p>accepted?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: All agreed or agreed in principle and we're working through the implementation.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Agreed with whom?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Agreed by the Australian government, the report. We went to the Minister for the Environment.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: My point is: it's government policy. I'm saying: with the scientific community, is it agreed?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: The scientific community were consulted and the feedback I've got from the scientific community I'm engaged with is that they're comfortable with the direction that we are taking the implementation.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Perhaps you can take on notice as well the evidence to support that statement?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I'll take on notice where we are with implementing it and the feedback we've got on the report.</p>		
211	4.1: ED	Senator Hanson-Young	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – draft legislation and contracts	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am following up on a question on notice asked by Senator Di Natale. It's question 111.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: This is a little bit like Senator Storer's question time performance last week, when he was asking for a friend.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know whether the department is currently drafting legislation to deal with the government's proposal of underwriting new generation investments. Is there any draft legislation in the works?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: The progress of underwriting new generation is still a subject for cabinet discussion in the budget context. Specifics around that at this stage would need to be taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The question is about draft legislation. You can't give us an indication as to whether any legislation is being drafted?</p>	Page 18	SQ19-000031

				<p>Mr Heferen: I think prior to government coming to decisions about how it's going to take that particular issue, which was broadly recommended by the ACCC, forward, I think I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So does that mean the department hasn't got to a point of writing up contracts yet then—or are any draft contracts being written?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Sorry, Senator. When I said I would take it on notice, I meant the whole context of the Underwriting New Generation Investments scheme.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, I understand that.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I will take it all on notice.</p>		
212	4.1: ED	Senator Keneally	Energy Security Board involvement in the National Energy Guarantee	<p>Senator KENEALLY: If the ESB's remit is to implement Finkel or to oversee the implementation and advise the council on the implementation of the Finkel, why were they involved in the development of the national energy guarantee when Finkel actually didn't recommend it? He recommended a clean energy target.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I'm just trying to recall the sequence of events. I might have to take that on notice to get the sequence of events correct.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Well, we had the Finkel report. There was the clean energy target. The government didn't proceed with it. They adopted a national energy guarantee. They engaged the Energy Security Board, including Dr Kerry Schott, to be involved with that. The NEG was a direction of the Commonwealth. So I'm just trying to understand why was the Energy Security Board was involved with the NEG but hasn't been involved with the divestment policy.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: It was certainly a resolution of the council—I can't recall specifically when—that ensured that work the ESB would do would come as requested from the council. I just can't recall the</p>	Page 68	SQ19-000089

				specific timeline, so I think it's best if we take that on notice so we provide the committee with the precise state of affairs.		
213	4.1: ED	Senator Hanson-Young	Underwriting New Generation Investments program	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. You've said that perhaps support could be offered under this Underwriting New Generation Investments program that would not require an appropriation of spending, because perhaps it doesn't require spending. In the consultation paper, you have a list of mechanisms for attracting investment—providing a floor price, contract for difference, cap and floor, collar contracts, government loans and capacity payments. Out of that list of options, which of these would not require legislation?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I think that is something we would need to take on notice. It would go to the content of having to talk to our people working on this who are expert in the law to provide some advice on that. So we would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But surely that's the type of work your department must be doing, because this is the consultation paper that you've put out and you've sought registrations over.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: So the process would be people put in their nominations or register, if you like. It's up to ministers to come to the view on the program, the guidelines and what they want out of the program and how that's to be delivered. I think to go to the question of those particular financing mechanisms and how they would be delivered is another sophisticated step that, to be—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It's not long before you might be dealing with another government. Surely you've had to think about these things.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: It would be premature of us to provide definitive advice on these things before the government has actually announced its intentions in</p>	Page 72-73	SQ19-000087

				<p>this area. Ultimately, the legal advice we would get both internally and externally would be for the purpose of, first, advising the government on what it wants to do. We need to land that before we would then be able to, quite reasonably, explore with you the merits or otherwise of the legislative position.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I've just given you the options that your department has already set out. You've obviously thought about those options being mechanisms that you wish to explore. I don't think it's that unreasonable to ask the department what work you've done to work out what is legislative and what isn't.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: I certainly wasn't attempting to suggest that it was unreasonable. I think it's perfectly reasonable for these questions to be asked. Our position is that essentially we will not pre-empt the announcements made by the government. That's all.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay. So out of these options of various different mechanisms, which of them require spending?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Again, it's difficult for us to answer. It may even be that within those different options there are various permutations or variables.</p> <p>Mr Pratt: Depending on what the people who have registered an interest are proposing.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Does providing a floor price require spending, though?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: That would depend.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you expand on that for me?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: I think this is what the minister and perhaps Mr Pratt and others are getting at. A large number of these actually would involve, consistent with the ACCC recommendations in this space, the government taking on some of the risk. That risk is the financial risk. Whether that actually crystallises or not</p>		
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				<p>in terms of some sort of financial liability to the government would depend on the market behaviour and where the various floors or cap and collars et cetera are set. So it may be that—and certainly where the ACCC was getting at in its recommendation—the government takes on some of the risk but not all of the risk so that the generation project can get up. Ideally, that contingent liability for the Commonwealth would never be triggered, but it would be sufficient to get the investment made.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So in that case you're suggesting that, even with things like providing a floor price or contract for difference, if it requires an element of the government taking a risk, there would have to be money put aside for it?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: I think—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm just asking you to confirm whether what I've heard from you is correct.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: No. I would probably need to speak to my budget colleagues, people who are more au fait with it than me. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p>		
214	4.1: ED	Senator Hanson-Young	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – draft contracts	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you for that clarification. I want to clarify, Mr Heferen. You haven't directed anyone in your department to start drafting legislation in anticipation of what decision the government will make?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Pratt, you haven't had to bring on extra staff to do that or change people's roles in order to do that?</p> <p>Mr Pratt: In relation to legislation, no.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Given that you are not aware of what mechanism will be used, you're not sure what legislation would be required, acknowledging that there might need to be—</p> <p>Mr Pratt: We're not able to pre-empt any government announcements on this.</p>	Page 74	SQ19-000127

				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Clearly, there's no ability for any discussions with any of the 66 applicants in relation to draft contracts, then?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: As I said before, the process of developing this is a process of many government programs. We provide advice to a minister. We work with the minister to fine-tune in this case what he is going to take to his colleagues. That is part of the budget process, which remains confidential. We have to take those questions on notice, like I said this morning, and see what the minister wants to provide.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would really like to be very clear about this point so there's no misunderstanding on my behalf. Have there been, or are there, any draft contracts in the works?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I don't think I can add anything to my previous answer.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You can't say no to that?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I'll take that on notice.</p>		
215	4.1: ED	Senator Storer	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – breakdown of registrations of interest	<p>Senator STORER: I have continuing questions in this same area. My apologies if I go over what may have been discussed even just now and then this morning. I want to understand the status of the list of the 66 submissions received. Can the department provide that list?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: At the moment, they are still an input to the cabinet process, so at this stage we can't. But I agree to take that on notice to see what the minister would want to provide.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Please do, yes. Can the department provide a high-level breakdown of the projects by technology, such as hydro, pumped hydro, battery, solar, wind, coal or gas?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We'll take it on notice.</p>	Page 75	SQ19-000085
216	4.1: ED	Senator Storer	Underwriting New Generation	<p>Senator STORER: Specifically with regard to meetings held, has the department met with Trevor St</p>	Page 76	SQ19-000083

			Investments program – Trevor St Baker	<p>Baker regarding this project and the 66 projects? Mr Pratt: No. Senator STORER: Has the minister met with Trevor St Baker regarding this opportunity? Are you aware, Minister? Senator Birmingham: I suspect we'll have to take it on notice.</p>		
217	4.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – discussions with ACCC	<p>Senator URQUHART: The ACCC recommendation sets out a very specific model for underwriting. It states that the government should operate a program: ... under which it will enter into low fixed-price (for example, \$45–\$50/MWh) energy offtake agreements for the later years (say 6–15) of appropriate new generation projects which meet certain criteria. In doing so, project developers will be able to secure debt finance for projects where they do not have sufficient offtake commitments from C&I customers for later years of projects.</p> <p>Does this strictly reflect the design of the underwriting program? Mr Heferen: Since the design hasn't been finalised— Senator URQUHART: So no design has been finalised at all? Mr Pratt: The government has yet to announce its design. Senator URQUHART: Did the ACCC provide any further advice or submissions on this policy once the government gave an outline? Mr Heferen: We have had discussions with officers from the ACCC. Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me when and in what form they were? Mr Heferen: I would have to take that on notice. Senator URQUHART: You can't tell me that? Mr Heferen: No. Senator URQUHART: Has that advice been made public?</p>	Page 77	SQ19-000081

				Mr Heferen: What I was talking about are discussions and conversations that we would have had with officers from the ACCC. Certainly they would not be made public. There may have been something else they put on the public record. I'm just not aware, so I will take that on notice and provide you with a comprehensive answer.		
218	4.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – ACCC submission	<p>Senator URQUHART: I'm talking about the ACCC view.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Of the?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Of the program.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: When you say the program, you mean—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The underwriting program.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: The one the government is yet to finalise?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So they haven't finalised it. The ACCC, I understand, made a submission.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Will that be made public?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: The consultation submissions haven't been made public yet. We are happy to take it on notice and check with the minister.</p>	Page 77 and 78	SQ19-000080
219	4.1: ED	Senator Duniam	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – ACCC recommendation	Which ACCC recommendation does the Underwriting New Generation Investments program respond to, and how does the design of the program address the terms of the recommendation?	Written	SQ19-000165
220	4.1: ED	Senator Duniam	Underwriting New Generation Investments program – submissions received	How many submissions were received by the Department of Environment and Energy in the Registration of Interest process?	Written	SQ19-000166
221	4.1: ED	Senator Duniam	Underwriting New Generation Investments	What impact will the program have on power prices in the National Electricity Market?	Written	SQ19-000167

			program – impact on power prices			
222	4.1: ED	Senator Duniam	Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct Bill 2018	When was the Department of Environment and Energy consulted by Treasury on the Treasury Laws Amendment (Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct) Bill 2018, and what was the nature of that consultation?	Written	SQ19-000168
223	4.1: ED	Senator Anning	Electricity prices	<p>Can you confirm that electricity prices need to be high enough to cover not only the costs of generation but also the costs of maintaining the poles and wires and other transmission infrastructure?</p> <p>Can you further confirm that with increasing numbers of households investing in their own solar generation capacity, those households are paying not only less of the generation costs but also less of the costs of maintaining the grid?</p> <p>Isn't it the case that as a result of this, grid electricity prices are being forced higher as those maintenance costs must be spread over a smaller base?</p> <p>Do you accept that the rapid uptake of solar power is causing electricity bills to be higher for everyone who doesn't have solar?</p>	Written	SQ19-000281
224	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Trajectory for low energy buildings	<p>Senator STORER: Not very long. I want to talk about the trajectory for low energy buildings. This is option 2. I'm pleased that the COAG Energy Council agreed in December last year on the trajectory for low energy buildings. Why is it that the trajectory has chosen to consider energy efficiency programs in late 2019 given that the COAG Energy Council agreed to December last year for the trajectory? Why is there a delay in the consideration of energy efficiency programs?</p> <p>Ms Croker: The focus of the COAG Energy Council last year in 2018 was to develop the trajectory and to focus on measures for new builds for both residential and commercial building energy efficiency measures. That would then feed into the COAG Building</p>	Page 76	SQ19-000079

				<p>Ministers' Forum process for changes to the National Construction Code for 2019. That was the focus so that we could make that timeframe of the COAG Building Ministers' Forum.</p> <p>Senator STORER: What is the federal government doing to consolidate jurisdictional learnings, as noted in the trajectory? What is the process for this consolidation of jurisdictional learnings? That is the phraseology.</p> <p>Ms Croker: I'm not quite sure what you're referring to. I'll have to take that on notice.</p>		
225	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Quantity of solar panels on rental properties in Australia	<p>Senator STORER: So there will be a consideration of low socioeconomic households and their ability to generate initiatives that bring about energy efficiency in their homes?</p> <p>Ms Croker: I don't think it's going to necessarily be on socioeconomic class because it will be on the types of buildings that those socioeconomic classes inhabit.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Are you aware of the statistic regarding rental properties and, for example, solar panel installation in Australia as an initiative for energy efficiency? How many rental properties have solar panels installed? Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Ms Croker: Sorry, but I don't know the answer to that question.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Croker: Yes.</p>	Page 76	SQ19-000075
226	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Definition of renewable energy	What is the definition of renewable energy?	Written	SQ19-000178
227	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Senator Whish-Wilson	Combustion of MSW	Does ARENA consider the combustion of MSW to generate electricity to be renewable energy? If yes: on what basis does ARENA consider MSW combustion to be renewable energy; and why isn't MSW	Written	SQ19-000181

	(ARENA)			combustion listed on ARENA's website as a form of renewable energy? < https://arena.gov.au/about/what-is-renewable-energy/ >		
228	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Non-biomass based component of MSW	Does ARENA consider the non-biomass-based component—in particular, the fossil fuel component—of MSW to be renewable energy?	Written	SQ19-000182
229	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	ARENA assessments	When ARENA's assesses whether or not to support MSW combustion projects, does ARENA determine what fraction of MSW is biomass-based?	Written	SQ19-000183
230	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Kwinana MSW Combustion Project	What fraction of the waste intended to go to the proposed Kwinana, WA, MSW combustion project is biomass-based? Please provide this fraction as a percentage of the overall weight of MSW, and as a percentage of the calorific value of the MSW.	Written	SQ19-000184
231	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Kwinana MSW Combustion Project – Fossil fuels	What fraction of the MSW intended to go to the proposed Kwinana facility is fossil fuels? Please provide this fraction as a percentage of the overall weight of MSW, and as a percentage of the calorific value of the MSW.	Written	SQ19-000185
232	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Reduction in emissions	In assessing whether a MSW combustion project would deliver a net reduction in emissions, how does ARENA account for the alternative destination of MSW? Specifically: how does ARENA determine and account for whether the bio-based component of MSW would have otherwise been sent to a landfill with methane gas capture; and how does ARENA account for the embodied energy within non-biomass based MSW that would have otherwise been sequestered in landfill?	Written	SQ19-000187
233	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Senator Whish-Wilson	Generate electricity	In assessing whether a MSW combustion project would deliver a net reduction in emissions, how does ARENA account for where electricity would otherwise be generated?	Written	SQ19-000188

	(ARENA)			What assumption did ARENA make about where the electricity that is proposed to be generated by the Kwinana facility would have otherwise come from? In other words: what is ARENA's assumption about what power source the Kwinana facility will displace?		
234	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Management of solid waste streams	<p>ARENA's website states: <i>In recent times energy-from-waste has received increased attention due to challenges some municipal councils are experiencing with managing solid waste streams. ARENA is cognisant that future energy-from-waste projects can assist in helping to address this issue, which is particularly important for dealing with waste that that could otherwise end up in landfill. Other benefits include: Reduction of greenhouse gases associated with landfill; Provision of secure and dispatchable energy; Support of rural economies; and Improvement of air quality (compared to fossil fuel equivalent).</i></p> <p>How might MSW combustion projects assist Australia's with the management of solid waste streams? In particular, how might MSW combustion projects increase the quantity and quality of recycling in Australia and the broader objectives of the National Waste Policy?</p>	Written	SQ19-000190
235	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	MSW combustion projects assisting MSW combustion projects assisting	On what basis has ARENA determined that MSW combustion projects might assist with the management of solid waste, particularly the quantity and quality of recycling and the broader objectives of the National Waste Policy?	Written	SQ19-000189
236	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Economics of solid waste management	Why is ARENA considering the economics of solid waste management when making its determinations?	Written	SQ19-000186
237	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Senator Whish-Wilson	Alternative policy responses	Given ARENA is considering the economics of solid waste management, has ARENA considered	Written	SQ19-000180

	Energy Agency (ARENA)			alternative policy responses to the current challenges with the management of solid waste, including those included in the National Waste Policy? And has ARENA considered whether these alternative policies might be impacted upon by the construction of MSW combustion projects? In particular, has ARENA considered whether the impetus for improved manufacture for recycling, and collection for recycling, might be reduced as a result of the construction of MSW combustion projects?		
238	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	Senator Chisholm	Ministerial briefing on the State of the Climate report	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: When was the latest <i>State of the Climate</i> report released?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: In December. I hope you received a copy, Senator. We sent a copy to all members of parliament.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Was the Minister for the Environment briefed on that?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: She was, as was the minister for industry.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: When did that brief take place?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I would have to double-check the exact date, but that occurred in December.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Minister Price has not done any media on the report since its release. As far as the department is aware, Mr Pratt, is there any reason why the minister has not been able to do this?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator Chisholm, we took those questions on notice earlier and I didn't agree with your position, or claim. By all means ask the rest of your question, but the introductory assertions about whether Minister Price has done any media—</p>	Page 29-30	SQ19-000073
239	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	Senator Chisholm	Funding or staffing changes to address the incidence of natural disasters	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has there been any funding or staffing change to address the expected increase in the incidence of natural disasters?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I would have to take that on notice. We have a lot of capability in our underpinning science</p>	Page 30	SQ19-000072

				and climatology. I couldn't give you an answer right now as to what its dynamics have been over recent years, but if you would like that detail, I could provide it for you on notice.		
240	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	Senator Chisholm	Engagement in adaptation, prevention and research activity	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Does the bureau engage in any adaptation, prevention and research activity?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We have a scientific capability that collaborates with agencies like the CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, the Antarctic Division. Some of those collaborations have involved climate adaptation studies. I'm not aware today as to whether any of those activities are currently operational, but certainly historically we've been involved in that work.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Has there been a specific funding mechanism for that?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Again, it has varied. Some of that has been through cooperative research centres or their equivalent. Some of it has been through industry funding. Some of it has been through funding from other government agencies and so on. So there has been a broad range of sources that fund our underpinning scientific effort.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Would it be possible to provide more detail on notice?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Sure, I'd be happy to do that for you.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: And if there has been any funding currently for that as well?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Sure.</p>	Page 31	SQ19-000071
241	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	Senator Hanson-Young	Contact with BoM regarding the Murray-Darling Basin fish kill	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to chase up some of those questions asked by Senator Chisholm in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin. Obviously, the fish kill has focused people's minds on the climate impact on the management of the basin. Has anyone within the minister for water's department or office contacted you in relation to this issue?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Contacted me personally?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes.</p>	Page 36	SQ19-000069

				<p>Dr Johnson: No, but I can't rule out that officers within the bureau may have received contact from either the MDBA—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm asking about the minister's office.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: The minister's office has not contacted me personally, no.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the minister's office been in contact with the bureau at all in relation to the—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: They may have been. I don't have full oversight of every action in any direction in the bureau. We could find that out, if it is something you're interested in.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would be.</p>		
242	Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	Senator Hanson-Young	Briefings on the special envoy for drought	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would any of that information, on the briefings that you've given to the special envoy for drought via the task force, be available for you to table?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We could certainly table all the information that we provided to the task force and to the leader of the task force, Major General Day. If you are interested in that material, we would be very happy to make it available to you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful; thank you</p>	Page 37	SQ19-000066
243	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Vales Point – Emissions intensity	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What is the emissions intensity of Vales Point?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: I'm sorry, Senator. I don't have that figure with me. We could take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Parker: We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But it's obviously higher than the average?</p> <p>Mr Parker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is it technically possible for a reduction to happen? You must have some concerns that it's so large that it wouldn't be able</p>	Page 90	SQ19-000064

				<p>to be lowered.</p> <p>Mr Parker: We are getting into speculative territory here for us. The test is whether or not it is above or below and that is the end of the story.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is it the view that the emissions intensity at Vales Point can be reduced so much so that it is below the grid average?</p> <p>Mr Parker: I don't know that we have addressed our minds to that question.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You are saying you don't have the figures for what Vales Point emissions intensity is.</p> <p>Mr Parker: We've said we would take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You will take it on notice. So you do have them somewhere. You just don't have them with you?</p> <p>Mr Parker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: When they registered, did they have to tell you? Do they give that information upfront or do you have to go around and find out?</p> <p>Mr Parker: I would have to go back and check.</p>		
244	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Vales Point – emissions reduction	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What is Vales Point planning to do to reduce their emissions?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: Without wanting to be at all unhelpful, we would really prefer to take these questions on notice so that we can make sure that we get you a very precise answer in response.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay.</p> <p>Ms Thompson: These are quite complex matters and they do raise various issues for the people who participate in our schemes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What is the mechanism that this project could use if, indeed, they are unable to reduce their emissions intensity in order to access the fund? Is there any other option than being given the tick from you?</p>	Page 91	SQ19-000062

				<p>Mr Parker: Not from us.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So there's no way they could actually access the Emissions Reductions Fund unless the government changed the law or regulation?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: It's possibly easier to talk a bit more about what the method does and doesn't allow. Under the facilities method, a power station could register under the ERF and receive ACCUs provided its emissions intensity that results after the project has been implemented is lower than the emissions intensity in the electricity market. So it's possible that a project could accomplish that, but that's the test that the method requires.</p> <p>Mr Parker: I'm sorry that this is going to be very technical, so we'll provide you with further information on it. As we've said, we'll take that on notice. The method is really complicated and it does take quite a lot of effort for people to really understand the details of it. There is the possibility that if the power station as a whole reduced its intensity, but not because of the actual project itself, it could engage with, if you like, some of the noise in the measurement. But it's not a substantive matter at all. It would be a tiny fraction of the actual abatement that was coming from the method. But, as I said, we can provide you with further information on that.</p>		
245	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Change of baseline type	How many applications are pending for a move from historical baselines to calculated ones?	Written	SQ19-000154
246	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Application rejections	Have any applications by companies seeking to move from historical baselines to calculated baselines been rejected?	Written	SQ19-000155
247	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Baseline sizes	Does the baseline increase in size as it changes from a historical baseline to a calculated one? If so, could you quantify the size of the increased headroom in tonnes? If so, could you provide that figure?	Written	SQ19-000156
248	Clean Energy	Senator	New construction	Can the CER outline how much new construction of	Written	SQ19-000157

	Regulator	Hanson-Young	pipeline	clean energy projects are in the pipeline right now and over the next three years?		
249	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	RET target timeframe	What is the timeline to meet the RET target of 33 gigawatt hours?	Written	SQ19-000158
250	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Current growth rates	In the absence of transmission investment and policy framework stability, do you expect current growth rates to continue over the next 5 to 10 years?	Written	SQ19-000159
251	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Green energy markets forecast	Green Energy Markets forecast that we would be on track for 78% renewables in 2030 under current construction levels, would you broadly agree with that analysis?	Written	SQ19-000160
252	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Renewables target	Would that mean a 50% renewables target would be a big contraction in the industry, affecting people who are employed today?	Written	SQ19-000161
253	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Emissions projections December 2018	Is the CCA familiar with the latest emission projections produced by the government and released in December 2018?	Written	SQ19-000280
254	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Minimum emissions reduction target under the Paris Agreement	The minimum emissions reduction target under Australia's current Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contribution is 26% below 2005 levels by 2030, correct? a. This amounts to reaching 450Mt CO ₂ -e (million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2030, correct?	Written	SQ19-000279
255	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Release of the latest emission projections	The most recent projections by the Department on our current trajectory were released on 21 December 2018, yes?	Written	SQ19-000278
256	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Emission levels	What level of emissions do the recent emission projection produced by the government project we Australia have in 2030? And what level were they at in 2018? So rather than decreasing our emissions, we are in fact set to increase our emissions by 29 MtCO ₂ -e between now and 2030, is that correct? And from 2005 levels, what percentage decrease would 563MtCO ₂ -e in 2030 represent? So, based on the latest government projections,	Written	SQ19-000277

				Australia will fail to reach the minimum Paris Target by 19%?		
257	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Government policies to reduce emissions	<p>What are the current government's headline policies to reduce emissions?</p> <p>In the CCA's view, are these policies working?</p> <p>a. (If yes) Can you clarify in what sense the CCA deems these policies to be working given that we are set to increase our emissions over the coming years, not decrease them?</p> <p>b. (If no) So, in your view, the current government policy to decrease emissions is ineffective?</p>	Written	SQ19-000276
258	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Paris targets	<p>Is it the CCA's view that Australia is 'on track' to meet our current Paris targets?</p> <p>a. (If yes) What gives the CCA that confidence? Have you performed any analysis that confirms the current set of policies will deliver these targets, or are you confident new more effective policies will be introduced (and if the latter, what gives you this confidence)?</p> <p>b. (If no) What steps is the government taking to ensure we become compliant with the Agreement?</p>	Written	SQ19-000275
259	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	UN's Emissions Gap Report 2018	<p>The UN's Emissions Gap Report 2018 specifically cited that Australia is not in line to meet its target. Do you agree with that statement?</p> <p>a. (If no) On what basis would you disagree with the report's findings?</p> <p>b. (If yes) Are you aware of any steps the government is taking to put Australia in line with its targets?</p> <p>In addition to the UN report, Australia was ranked as the least 'Paris-compatible' nation in Allianz' Climate and Energy Monitor 2018. Would you agree with that characterisation?</p> <p>a. (If no) On what basis would you disagree with the report?</p> <p>b. (If yes) Are you aware of any steps is the government taking to make Australia Paris-compatible?</p>	Written	SQ19-000274

260	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Paris agreement ratchet mechanism	<p>Is the CCA familiar with the Paris agreement 'ratchet mechanism'?</p> <p>a. Can you provide the Committee with a short explanation of the Paris ratchet mechanism, its purpose and its implications for Australia's emission reduction targets?</p> <p>b. Is it true that in order to deliver the Paris Agreement, Australia will need to increase its Paris targets from their current levels under the ratchet mechanism?</p>	Written	SQ19-000273
261	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Australia's Paris Targets	Do you have a view of what Australia's Paris Targets should be to deliver a fair contribution to the Paris Agreement goal of limiting Global Warming to 'well below' two degrees?	Written	SQ19-000272
262	Climate Change Authority	Senator Urquhart	Climate Change Authority Report 2015 – Australia's Emission Reduction Targets	<p>In the CCA report of 2015 – Australia's Emission Reduction Targets, the CCA recommended a national target in Australia of between 45% to 65% emission reductions on 2005 levels by 2030. Do you stand by that recommendation?</p> <p>a. (If yes) So your view is Australia should increase our emission reduction target under the Paris agreement in order to meet the goal of that agreement?</p> <p>i. (If yes) Does it make a difference when that increase in target should occur? I.e. In the long term, would it be better for the Australian economy if the target was increased sooner or later?</p>	Written	SQ19-000271
263	Director of National Parks	Senator Storer	Marine Parks designated 'special purpose mining exclusion'	<p>Senator STORER: I want to talk about the marine parks in the Great Australian Bight. Many of the waters within the existing federal marine parks in the Great Australian Bight had no mining permits or leases on them prior to the tabling of the 2018 marine parks management plans. Given the significance of the Great Australian Bight, particularly with marine park zones, and the strong local community, fishing industry and opposition feelings towards mining operations there, firstly, I want to ask about the western and the eastern Kangaroo Island marine parks</p>	Page 121	SQ19-000059

				<p>and the top of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, which are designated as 'special purpose mining exclusion'.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Sorry, Senator Storer. Senator Dodson, I am advised that the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill 2018 is listed for debate in the House tomorrow.</p> <p>Senator DODSON: Thank you, Minister. There are going to be a lot of happy people.</p> <p>Senator STORER: I'm interested in why those two marine parks around Kangaroo Island and the top of the Great Australian Bight Marine Park were designated 'special purpose mining exclusion'. Do you have any information to make sense of that?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: I do; I'm just trying to recall the information now. We've got, as you know, a very complex network. There were a whole range of decisions made across the 44 marine protected areas about what activities could occur where, based on quite detailed scientific and other advice, including quite extensive public consultation. I'd prefer to take on notice to come back to you in particular with regard to those two because I don't have that information at hand right now.</p>		
264	Director of National Parks	Senator Storer	Designated 'special purpose mining exclusion' – assessment process	<p>Senator STORER: Right. I'm interested in why the other marine parks in the Great Australian Bight were not zoned 'special purpose mining exclusion'?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: The process followed quite an extensive risk assessment, which looked at the types of activities and the types of impacts they would have relative to the particular values within each of those marine park zones and the likely impacts of particular activities on those features. It's a risk assessment process and trade-off. But I need to come back to you with particular details about which ones had the exclusion and which ones didn't and why.</p> <p>Senator STORER: If you could. These designations</p>	Page 121	SQ19-000057

				<p>were made in 2018, yet the regulators and mining companies probably knew from late 2013 that the zoning in the marine parks of the Great Australian Bight was under review. New permits were issued and taken up in some of those areas which were designated in 2018 to not have mining exclusions. I'm interested in how it came to be that the designation was made in 2018, yet from 2013 there was considerable knowledge about pending designation of many of these areas that had mining exploration permits issued.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: They're not declared until they're declared, I suppose. But I'll come back to you with regard to the particular features and the risk assessments that were made in those cases.</p> <p>Senator STORER: Okay. I'm very interested to know why leases were allowed to be issued over parks that were under review in that period.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: The parks weren't actually in place, in terms of implementation on water, and until they're implemented, they're not law. Again, I'll come back to you about the particular decision making with regard to the plans that were declared on 1 July 2018.</p> <p>Senator STORER: If you could, thank you very much.</p>		
265	Director of National Parks	Senator Urquhart	Kakadu – funding commitment	<p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. The government's commitment is 10 years. What is in the forward estimates and what is after that?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: At the moment, the funding's actually drawn from a range of sources. So the portfolio additional estimates don't capture all of the funding that's currently covered in the \$216 million. In the forward estimates for parks, there is actually a relatively limited amount of money for parks itself. Most of the other money is drawn from other programs but will be directed towards Kakadu park, so we would probably have to give it to you—</p>	Page 122 and 123	SQ19-000052

				<p>Mr Cahill: Take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Yes, I think we'll take it on notice. That's probably the easiest way.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: The road infrastructure is in the infrastructure portfolio program.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you provide—</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We do have some elements of the Jabiru package within this portfolio and our other portfolio, so we'll take that on notice and get back to you.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. So you can provide me with what is in the forward estimates and what comes in after that.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. That's it for Kakadu. Thank you.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you, Dr Finlay. As we tried to before, we'll now go to program 1.6.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry, can I just get you—in the forward estimates in the on-notice stuff—to give me how much for the national park in the forward estimates as well? Thank you.</p>		
266	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	Kakadu Buffalo Farm	<p>Please provide an update on the progress of Mr David Lindner's license application for his activities at the 'Buffalo Farm' to the Kakadu Board of Management. Has Mr Lindner submitted a license application for his activities at the 'Buffalo Farm' to the Kakadu Board of Management?</p> <p>If not, what timeframe are you working to for this? Have you set a deadline by which Mr Lindner is expected to submit the license application? What undertakings can Parks provide that they will be determining an alternative course of action for the area and for a clean-up and rehabilitation of the area if no application is forthcoming?</p>	Written	SQ19-000205
267	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	Buffalo farm – Environmental Impact Statement	<p>Can you confirm whether the Environmental Impact Statement and Cultural Heritage Survey from 1989 have been found in your archives?</p>	Written	SQ19-000206

				If so, please provide a copy of these reports.		
268	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	Buffalo farm – public liability insurance	Mr Lindner was required to demonstrate that he has \$20 million public liability insurance by November 30 2018. Has Mr Lindner demonstrated this? If not, what actions is Parks taking as a result? How will Parks ensure Mr Lindner has adequate insurance? What is the long-term strategy for the area in the absence of adequate insurance? How has the Director ensured that Mr Lindner has the minimum financial capacity and personal circumstances to manage a herd of buffalo and maintain a minimum standard of safe accommodation with access to water, power and emergency support in a remote location?	Written	SQ19-000208
269	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	Future funding arrangements for Jabiru and Kakadu National Park	How will Parks work with the traditional owners in the implementation of future funding arrangements for Jabiru and Kakadu National Park? What processes will Parks employ in addition to the existing and usual engagement structures and channels? How will Parks ensure that traditional owners and their organisations are in a genuine partnership with the Director in the next stage in the history of Kakadu National Park? Please confirm how much of the federal allocation will go towards the implementation of the tourism masterplan and road strategy? What commitment can the Department give to reviewing existing management arrangements or establishing new arrangements to safeguard and to maximise the unprecedented funding opportunity that now exists at Kakadu?	Written	SQ19-000209
270	Director of National Parks	Senator Urquhart	Funding for marine parks implementation	What is the status of funding to implement the government’s marine park proposal? The Minister announced \$5million last week. What exactly is that for?	Written	SQ19-000270

				<p>What about the fisheries adjustment?</p> <p>a. How many fishers are affected?</p> <p>How many licences have been bought out?</p> <p>a. (if licenses have been bought out), which licences?</p> <p>b. (if not), will you buy out license?</p> <p>When is fisheries adjustment funding available? When does it run out?</p> <p>How much funding has been spent and how much is reimaging (for marine parks implementation and fisheries adjustment)?</p>		
271	Director of National Parks	Senator Urquhart	Marine parks management	<p>How much area has been added to the National Parks estate?</p> <p>a. What was the size of the estate prior to the marine parks?</p> <p>How much money is available for management of the marine parks?</p> <p>a. What is that per hectare or square kilometre?</p> <p>What management actions have taken place or do take place?</p>	Written	SQ19-000269
272	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Keneally	GBRMPA – budget	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Within those funding flows, is that all going towards reef investment, or are there administration costs in there? Can you break out any more specifically what flow of funding will go directly to the reef?</p> <p>Ms Leo: Well, that is total budget to the agency.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Leo: In terms of what proportion of that might be administrative costs, that would depend on particular programs.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: I may come back and put some questions on notice to you on that in the interests of time. Do you have a figure, in terms of those forward flows, for what is going to research?</p> <p>Ms Leo: It's not specifically structured in that way, Senator. I would need to take that on notice.</p>	Page 42	SQ19-000050
273	Great Barrier Reef Marine	Senator Keneally	Funding to specific programs	<p>Senator KENEALLY: I imagine I'll get the same answer when I ask what funding within that is going</p>	Page 42	SQ19-000049

	Park Authority			to specific programs as opposed to research. Ms Leo: We could talk to the joint field management program, where it is clear how much is directed to that part of our operations. But for other programs, we would need to take it on notice.		
274	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Keneally	Great Barrier Reef Foundation grant – meetings with GBRMPA	Senator KENEALLY: I have a few questions on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation grant. How many meetings has GBRMPA had with the foundation since the announcement of the grant? Mr Elliot: I would probably have to take on notice the exact number of meetings. We have been meeting with the foundation regularly. We have a bilateral forum with the foundation. We have had an MOU with the foundation for a number of years predating this grant. We also have a member of the marine park authority on the partnership management committee of the foundation. We have GBRMPA staff on a number of the working groups. So it would be a significant number of meetings that we would be involved in.	Page 45	SQ19-000045
275	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation meeting	Senator WHISH-WILSON: I understand it was reported by Karen Middleton in <i>The Saturday Paper</i> that a meeting was posted by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation last year for Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. I understand Dr Reichelt was at that meeting. Was he there representing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or was he there in his private capacity for the foundation? Mr Elliot: I would probably have to take that question on notice. I would be guessing. My memory isn't good enough to know exactly the reasons he was there. Yes, he was there, but I would have to check. So I would have to take that question on notice. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Was the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority aware of that get-together on the Barrier Reef? Mr Elliot: I believe we were aware of the meeting,	Page 46 and 47	SQ19-000042

				<p>yes.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: What was the purpose of it?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: Again, I would probably have to take on notice the exact purpose of the meeting.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Mr Elliot, meeting the Prince of Wales to discuss the reef; it is pretty obvious. Are you or anyone else in the organisation aware of what the expected outcome of the meeting was?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: I am certainly—the same would probably be consistent for our other senior executives—aware that the meeting was taking place. I suspect I was actually aware of the full purpose of why the Prince of Wales was wanting to meet with the foundation and the outcomes they were seeking to achieve ahead of the meeting. I just can't remember exactly what they were at the moment, so I would have to take the question on notice.</p>		
276	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Shark fins	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I will ask about that a bit later. I want to check one thing. There is no requirement in Queensland to bring back sharks to port with fins attached to the body of the shark until 75 per cent of the quota has been caught?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: I would have to take that on notice. I don't think I would be able to answer that definitively right here.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you.</p>	Page 50	SQ19-000036
277	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Guiding principles of the Governing Act	<p>What are the guiding principles in your governing Act when there is a tension between being a profit-maximising player in the energy market or acting to advance the broader public interest?</p>	Written	SQ19-000139
278	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Snowy Hydro – Investment type	<p>Is Snowy Hydro intended to be run as a profit-maximising investment for the government or is it intended to be a grid-strengthening investment through its ability to store energy over seasons rather than just short-term dispatches that batteries offer?</p>	Written	SQ19-000140

279	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Snowy Hydro – Trade offs	There will inevitably be times when a trade-off will have to be made between scooping up peak power prices or holding off for times where the grid needs the stability that Snowy can offer. What would Snowy do?	Written	SQ19-000141
280	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Snowy Hydro – Direction from Minister	In Queensland, the government instructed the state-owned Stanwell Corporation to stop gaming the market. The directive forced them to “ <i>undertake strategies to place downward pressure on wholesale prices</i> ”. Prices then fell in the vicinity of \$12-15/MWh. Has the Minister ever given Snowy Hydro a direction to do this either with Snowy’s retail or generation companies? Does he have such power to make such directions under the Act?	Written	SQ19-000142
281	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Energy Prices	What measures has Snowy Hydro taken to reduce energy prices for customers over time?	Written	SQ19-000143
282	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Cost of production	On 25 January, what was the highest price that Snowy Hydro bid into the market during the ‘lack of reserve’ period in Victoria when prices hit \$14,500? o What is the cost to produce that energy?	Written	SQ19-000144
283	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Default offers	It was reported that Snowy Hydro’s retail customers (through Red Energy and Lumo) on default offers were given a discount. What was the level of the discount? Is that at least as good, or better than what a new customer could negotiate?	Written	SQ19-000146
284	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Proportion of customers on default offers	What proportion of your customers are on the default offer?	Written	SQ19-000148
285	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Snowy 2.0 – energy storage capacity options	Were options other than Snowy 2.0 considered by the Government for procuring 2000 MW of new energy storage capacity?	Written	SQ19-000300
286	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Snowy 2.0 procurement process	What procurement process was undertaken to select Snowy 2.0?	Written	SQ19-000301

287	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Snowy 2.0 tender process	Why wasn't an open tender process undertaken to procure the 2000 MW of new energy storage capacity that Snowy 2.0 will provide?	Written	SQ19-000302
288	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Snowy Hydro 2.0 Regulatory Investment Test	Will Snowy Hydro 2.0 be exempt from the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission?	Written	SQ19-000303
289	4.1: ESED	Senator Storer	Alternative pumped hydro storage projects	Is the Department aware of alternative pumped hydro storage projects around the country?	Written	SQ19-000304