

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-24 – 24 OCTOBER 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	DepartmentOr Agency	PortfolioQoN No.	Senator	Topic	Question	Hansard Page
1	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001300	Ross Cadell	Gas projects approved under the EPBC Act	<p>Senator CADELL: ... How many coal and gas projects approved under the EPBC Act have been legally challenged or taken to court by environmental groups?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think we'd better take that on notice, too.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: I have many questions of this specific nature, which will probably need to be taken on notice, but I'll keep going. The next question is virtually exactly the same: how many legal cases involving the EDO and at least one government agency are currently underway?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Yes-on notice.</p>	7
2	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001299	Ross Cadell	Legal cases - Environmental Justice Australia	<p>Senator CADELL: ...how many legal cases involving Environmental Justice Australia and at least one government agency are underway? Would that be something for 4.30?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I'm not sure.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think that's us, actually. I think we'd have to take that on notice.</p>	7

3	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001301	Perin Davey	Cancelled programs or projects	<p>Senator DAVEY: ... Specifically, have any programs or projects been cancelled since last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Across the whole of the portfolio?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: That really is something that I'm going to have to take on notice. Senator, so that I can give you the best possible answer on notice, are you interested in programs or projects at any level?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Obviously we're looking across the budget and the forwards at projects that have been cancelled or reprofiled. It's so that when we're comparing budgets we can actually follow the bouncing ball.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Okay.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Often projects get reprofiled and the line item comes out of the budget, but we don't know where the money has gone.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Okay. We will take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>	8
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4	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001302	Hollie Hughes	Garma festival	<p>Senator HUGHES: ...Did anyone from the department attend the Garma festival?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Yes, they did.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: Could you give us an update of how many?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Just bear with us.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: While you're having a look at that, are there other details you can provide over who they were, what APS classification and how long they attended?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I don't have that with me, but I can get that fairly quickly. From memory-</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think we should come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator HUGHES: I'm interested in how long they went, what their classification was, what their role was at the festival and the cost to the department. If you want to jump around and see we get that before the end of corporate-</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I'm not sure if we can get that before the end of corporate, but I will definitely have it for you this morning.</p>	8
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5	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001303	Ross Cadell	Staffing levels	<p>Senator CADELL: ... Answer to question on notice SQ23- 000851 says that the number of staff in the environment and water function was projected to rise by 331 during 2023-24. Is that figure still accurate?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: Yes, that's approximately correct.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: What was the change in the number of environment and water staff during 2022-23?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I've got it broken down by division. I don't have it necessarily as environment and water.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: I'll test the old maths. Let's go.</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: Okay. In terms of environment protection, that grew from 181 in September 2022-this is when the department first reported it-to 223 as our indicative budget for this year. One of the issues I've got-just for clarity while I'm working this out-is that we restructured the department earlier this year, so it's not exactly like for like between September and March, but I'll do my best.</p> <p>Ms McCulloch: Senator, can I just ask you to clarify, because we've got a number of environment and water functions. Is there a specific-</p> <p>Senator CADELL: No, across the total. It was all in reference to the SQ23-000851 question on notice-that growth number and applying it to whatever you applied it to.</p> <p>CHAIR: So therefore the restructure won't impact that, because there's just one total number for the entirety of the department.</p> <p>Ms McCulloch: That's right. I'm just checking-</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: Okay. Maybe I'll answer it in a different way for you now that I understand the question. Maybe I can do it at group level. That might help.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Yes, that might be better.</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: Environment-so that's Deputy Secretary Knudson-in</p>	9 - 10
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				<p>September 2022 had 277 staff. This is by headcount. As at August 2023, it was 416.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Do you have them by FTE or-</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I'll check. I'll give you the one for Deputy Secretary Parry and then I'll come back to that if I can.</p> <p>In September 2022, it was 634 by headcount. At 31 August 2023, it was 878 by headcount. Ms McCulloch: They're our two environment groups, and then there's a water group. Senator CADELL: Do you want water while we're here?</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes, I do.</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: Water was 236 at 30 September 2022 and 459 as at 31 August 2023, by headcount.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Pretty close on the target. Thank you for that. And wage cost over those periods?</p> <p>Ms McCulloch: For those groups?</p> <p>Senator CADELL: For those groups. That'd be fine.</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I'll probably have to take that on notice, because I don't know that I have that.</p> <p>Ms McCulloch: Senator, if you want the budgets of those groups-</p> <p>Senator CADELL: That would be fine.</p> <p>Ms McCulloch: we would need it split. If you want employee cost, we have totals which would include supplier costs et cetera.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: No, if we can split it out, I'm happy for you to take it on notice.</p>	
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6	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001304	Ross Cadell	ASL at previous department working on environmental approvals	<p>Senator CADELL: ... How many ASL in the previous department were working on environmental approvals at the time this government came into office?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: I'd have to take that on notice. Senator CADELL: Okay. And then and now? Mr Hanlon: Yes, I can do that.</p>	10
7	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001305	Perin Davey	Standing offer notice SON3921317 - AusTender	<p>Senator DAVEY: I have a question regarding the standing offer notice SON3921317, which was published on the AusTender website on 10 October, with the contract notice view CN4008637. This was the awarding of a contract of \$1.7 million to CSIRO-I know they're coming up later-for securing water for an emerging Australian hydrogen industry. I'm trying to understand what areas that contract is focused on. When they say 'securing water', is that surface water or desalination plants?</p> <p>Ms Johnson: I've just been advised that that's a contract in our water group. That's for water estimates, in program 1.4. Can we take that on notice so we're reading to answer that when we come back?</p>	17

8	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001307	Gerard Rennick	Community Batteries	<p>Senator RENNICK: With regard to community batteries, a lower house MP has questioned the absence of relevant records held by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy's department as to costing and how it was decided which electorates these batteries would go in. Would it be possible-now or on notice-to have a look at the costings and the decision-making process behind where you decided to put these community batteries? I note that, at our last conversation, a lot of the batteries were going into inner city areas, where they're not really needed because there's already a lot of energy being provided there, as opposed to remote areas that could have done with community batteries because they're at the end of the grid. Can we get those details and costings and the cost- benefit analysis on those locations for batteries, please?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: My colleague Mr White might be able to help you. James, do you have anything?</p> <p>Mr White: The locations of the batteries-I think we've discussed this in estimates before and provided a response on notice already-were determined by the government when the government was in opposition before the last election.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: That's fair enough. That's beside the point. The point is: how did you come to the decision-making process? It seems very odd that you'd put the batteries in inner city areas and not in outer regional areas, where they're much more remote and on the edge of the grid? All I'm asking for are the government's workings as to how it came to those decisions. I'm sure, if you've got the records, there's nothing to hide. If you don't have the records, then you can say you don't have the records. This isn't a big issue.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We'll take it on notice. To reaffirm, the locations were identified by the then opposition. That's a really important point to make. I know you understand that. We've had this</p>	20
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					<p>discussion before. I'll just restate that the considerations that the then opposition undertook to identify those locations are not known to us. What we can do is take on notice what we, as a department, have done since the government was elected in relation to that implementation of that election commitment.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Sure. That's all we want to know-whether or not there are politics involved. I know we've been held to account on that in the past.</p>	
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9	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001306	Gerard Rennick	AEMO Integrated System Plan	<p>Senator RENNICK: Let me ask a more specific question: what percentage of energy developments have you actually got planned and confirmed out of the 100 per cent that you need to get to 82 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: The best source of information on this is AEMO's Integrated System Plan and their step change scenario. When it looks at NEM generation capacity, by 2030-31 total renewable capacity-and this is in gigawatts-it estimates to be 111 gigawatts, with the total capacity being 129, and the difference there being a non-renewable capacity of 18. That includes remaining black and brown coal but also some gas remaining in the system at that point.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: So you're saying that you've got 100 planned of the 123 already lock and loaded?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: That is the Integrated System Plan. That is the best least-cost pathway effectively to 2030-31 according to AEMO.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Could you provide on notice a list of all those projects so I can look at them?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: We can certainly provide you with a link through to the AEMO Integrated System Plan, which details all of the projects.</p>	20
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10	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001636	Gerard Rennick	Bisphenol A used in epoxy resin	<p>Senator RENNICK: ... I've asked a question about bisphenol A in wind turbines. Is there epoxy resin in wind turbines blades-yes or no?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I'm pretty sure there's no-one at this table that can answer that question. I have a sneaking suspicion we will probably need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RENNICK: Okay. I was told in a former answer that it wasn't used, but my understanding of it is that bisphenol A is used in the epoxy resin that goes on wind turbines. It's an essential ingredient of the resins that is used on wind turbines. If that breaks down, which it does over time, and if that gets into the water, especially for offshore wind turbines, that can damage our marine life, which wouldn't be good, would it?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Fair enough. That's an important question. I want to answer that well for you, so we'll take that on notice.</p>	20
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11	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001311	Larissa Waters	Safeguard mechanism - coalmines below baseline	<p>Senator WATERS: ... I want to start off with the safeguard mechanism credits. I understand that a rule issued in the safeguard mechanism treats open-cut coalmines and underground coalmines as one group with the same baseline despite them having different emissions profile. That, I infer, means that a certain number of open-cut coalmines will be given a baseline that their emissions are already below, so they would get safeguard mechanism credits without actually having to change their activities. Is that a correct analysis? Did you try various other ways of structuring the rule? Was there any consideration of degrouping open-cut from underground coalmines to factor that difference in?</p> <p>Ms Johnson: As we worked through the production variable review, we did look at the incentives associated with what you've described as previously a production variable for coalmine waste gas and one for run-of-mine coal. The conclusion was that the best emissions reduction incentives were achieved by combining those into that single run-of-mine coal. When we thought through the issuance of safeguard mechanism credits, as you're aware, we did consult carefully on the question of whether baselines should be set at an industry average emissions intensity level or a site-specific one. That was something that we thought very carefully about during the course of the reforms. That was where we developed the hybrid to best move over the long term to the lowest-emissions incentives, which is the industry average, to really look to achieve that transition. As we got through the particular run-of-mine coal production variable-you will be aware that the transition to industry average is over a longer term. It's a fifty-fifty per cent split in 2030, and that really slows the effect of the parameters that you've just been discussing. So we did think very carefully about how to best incentivise the lowest-emissions-</p>	22
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					<p>intensive production throughout that reform process.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. I'm pleased and I accept that you thought that all through in the process of designing the policy. Notwithstanding the fifty-fifty split that you've just referenced, could I get on record how many coalmines are already below their allocated baseline?</p> <p>Ms Johnson: I would have to take that on notice. It's true to say that emissions intensity is the most diverse in the coal sector. There is the broadest split, but I'd have to take on notice the actual number.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you for doing so.</p>	
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12	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001312	Larissa Waters	Safeguard mechanism - rule to prevent credits being generated	<p>Senator WATERS: Could the minister issue a rule that prevents safeguard mechanism credits from being generated when no activity has created them? Is work being done to consider that?</p> <p>Ms Johnson: Really, we have thought this through very carefully and so are not actively pursuing any further development of policy on that front.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay, but it's theoretically possible that the minister could issue such a rule? There is no barrier to that?</p> <p>Ms Johnson: I'd have to take that on notice. We have set it up so that safeguard mechanism credits are issued under the current arrangements.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thanks for taking that on notice.</p>	22
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13	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001313	Larissa Waters	Western Australia's net zero targets	<p>Senator WATERS: ... I will move now to state based emissions. When the department compiles its annual emissions projections report in December, I understand, you look closely at what the states are doing. Do you collect detailed information about states' emissions profiles?</p> <p>Ms Ford: You asked a question about state emissions. Is that correct?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes-and whether or not you seek detailed emissions profiles when you're doing your annual emissions projections report.</p> <p>Ms Ford: The annual emissions projections report draws heavily on information collected through the National inventory report and the quarterly update inventories. Those reports are compiled on a range of data sources, including information collected through the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme, which has facility-level information, which is located in different states and territories. To answer your question, in the National inventory report we collect information on state based emissions, and that information forms the basis- the starting point, I guess- for the emissions projections.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I understand that WA's net zero targets apply for 2050 but they don't have a 2030 target. I'm interested in what you're assuming WA's emissions are going to be in 2030 for the purposes of compiling your reports.</p> <p>Ms Ford: The emissions projections don't provide information on state based emissions projections. The emissions projections provide information at a range of categories, including national emissions and emissions by sector.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Sorry; I thought you said yes to my earlier question, but actually it was a no?</p> <p>Ms Ford: What I was saying is that the National inventory report</p>	22 - 23
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				<p>publishes information at the state level, but the emissions projections report, which draws on the inventory as a starting point for the projections, doesn't do it by state.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: So is there any body of work that you are required to do that will necessitate you making an assumption about WA's emissions in 2030? If so, what is your assessment of what that will be in 2030 for WA?</p> <p>Ms Ford: As I said, the emissions projections do not publish information on state level emissions, so we don't have a projection for 2030 emissions from Western Australia that is published in the emissions projections.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Just to add to Ms Ford's answer: through the Energy and Climate Ministerial Council, there is a piece of work for each year to look at the progress of all the states and territories and the Commonwealth against their various targets. That's happening for the first time this year. Once we have gone through that process, there may be something that comes from that that will give some insight along the lines of what you're looking for.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: We'll keep an eye out for that. The reason I'm asking is that, in AEMO's WA Gas statement of opportunities report, it's projected that WA is going to more than double domestic gas use by 2030 and, in some strange parallel universe, the WA government is going to rely on that to replace its coal plants. My area of interest is: what are the expected net emissions savings between lower coal emissions and higher gas emissions? It seems like a bit of a false economy to me. Is that anything that the federal department will have a view on or eyes on or any responsibility to analyse the implications of?</p> <p>Ms Rowley: All of the electricity generation and LNG production and gas production in WA forms part of the emissions accounting that we do, including for the inventory and for the projections. As</p>	
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				<p>Ms Ford explained, they're not published by the individual state level, but it's certainly all included in our aggregate picture. The Commonwealth, in its international obligations for emissions projections, isn't required to give that subnational split, and so we don't, at this time, have plans to be publishing an assessment of the emissions outlook at the state level. However, all of that detail will be absolutely part of the national assessment. I think it's fair to say, to explain the emissions savings, that obviously for any given level of electricity generation, with a shift from coal- if you have coal exiting, as I understand is the case in WA, and gas coming into replace that-there is a significant reduction in the emissions intensity of that electricity generation, and that would be the emissions saving, presumably, that they're referring to.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you quantify for me, perhaps on notice if you need to, what you mean by 'a significant amount'? I'm trying to get at what we're expecting WA will actually achieve by simply replacing coal with gas.</p> <p>Ms Rowley: The emissions intensity of coal it depends on the source of coal and the age of the generator. Similarly, the emissions intensity of gas fired generation depends on whether it's an open-cycle or a combined- cycle generator. But ballpark figures are, from memory, that it's about a tonne per megawatt hour-or is it a megatonne per megawatt hour. Sorry, I will take that on notice and I won't get my tonnes and megatonnes mixed up.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. For clarity, I'm also interested in the full lifecycle, not just the burning of the gas, because, obviously the fugitive emissions are a massive problem, and that's where the emissions profile gets a lot closer to coal. That's why I'm asking the question. I don't want to look at just the last bit; I want to look at the full bit.</p>	
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					<p>Ms Rowley: We'll take it on notice and see what we can provide. Senator WATERS: Lovely. Thanks very much.</p>	
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14	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001314	Janet Rice	Emissions projections analysis	<p>Senator RICE: I want to home in on the land management sectors and the evidence about the carbon value of ending native forest logging to help meet our carbon targets. In the emissions projections work, has there been any analysis done of the benefits of ending native forest logging in Victoria and Western Australia in reducing our carbon emissions?</p> <p>Ms Ford: In the emissions projections we did include the announced policies of Western Australia and Victoria, who have made a commitment to end native forest harvesting. We did show that there were reductions in native forest harvesting, which will increase the net sink over time in the projections.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you repeat that.</p> <p>Ms Ford: The 2022 emissions projections did show reductions in native forest harvesting consistent with the WA and Victorian government policy commitments at that time to end native timber harvesting and there was an increase in the net sink that was projected.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Sorry, there was an increase in the-?</p> <p>Ms Ford: Net sink-the amount of carbon sequestered.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So the department does now acknowledge that ending native forest logging results in a net benefit to the climate from that reduction in carbon emissions and avoided carbon emissions?</p> <p>Ms Ford: As we have discussed before, the cessation of native forest harvesting results in reduced emissions that would have occurred had the harvesting continued. Of course, the forests continue to grow, increasing the amount of carbon stored in them until they reach maturity.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is that level of detail of emissions projection available publicly?</p> <p>Ms Ford: I will just have to check. In the projections we include</p>	27 - 28
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					<p>emissions by the following subsectors in the land use, land use change and forestry sector. The forests, agriculture and other land and forests converted to agriculture and other land-</p> <p>Senator RICE: But what I want to know is, is that detail you just told me available in the public emissions projections work?</p> <p>Ms Rowley: The aggregate effect for the land sector-</p> <p>Senator RICE: That is not my question. I want to know what is publicly available of the specifics of what Ms Ford has just acknowledged. Basically, if it is not publicly available, could you please take on notice providing that to the Senate.</p> <p>Ms Ford: On page 63 of the emissions projections, we do acknowledge that to 2035 the sink increases are mainly due to the sustained impact of the cessation of native timber harvesting driven by state policy.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice providing the analysis that lies below that statement?</p> <p>Ms Ford: That is something we will have to take on notice.</p>	
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15	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001315	Janet Rice	Letter from New South Liberal's regarding the ceasing of logging in New South Wales	<p>Senator RICE: The New South Wales Liberals, it was revealed in documents obtained under FOI by the Nature Conservation Council, wrote to ministers Plibersek and Bowen seeking to generate new carbon credits under the emissions reductions from ceasing logging in New South Wales. Documents reveal that neither Minister Plibersek nor Minister Bowen responded. I am interested in why that is the case.</p> <p>Ms Rowley: I cannot speak to the specific cause for the nonresponse to the letter but I could speak to the issue of the request or interest in new methods, if that is of interest.</p> <p>Senator RICE: No, I don't want to go specifically to the methods and the ERF methodologies but, given that neither minister responded, maybe you could take on notice if you cannot go to that now. Is it that there is too much work in progress given that you are now acknowledging that ending native forest logging is good for the climate?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We will take it on notice and check.</p>	28
16	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001316	David Van	Rewiring the Nation - firming capacity	<p>Senator VAN: Does the department have milestones for what firming capacity you'll have in the system over coming years and decades?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: We'd refer back to the optimal pathway outlined in AEMO's Integrated System Plan as providing, in a sense, a consistent pathway with the government's renewable energy target of 82 per cent in the NEM, reaching 83 per cent under the step-change scenario. That unpacks what the new generation build is, what the storage build is, what the transmission build is.</p> <p>Senator VAN: I've got it open in front of me. Can you show me where it steps that out?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: I don't have it in front of me. I'm happy to take that</p>	32

					<p>on notice and refer you to the specific page number. Senator VAN: Thank you.</p>	
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17	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001323	David Pocock	Inflation Reduction Act analysis	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: ... It's now been over a year since the US passed the Inflation Reduction Act, and I'm interested to find out if the department has modelled the impact of an Inflation Reduction Act response here in Australia.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We haven't done our own modelling of it, but there's been quite a lot of analysis done by other parties that we've had a look at, and we are continuing to work to look at which sectors and so on may be most significantly affected in Australia and whether or not we need to respond. You saw already in the budget the Hydrogen Headstart program, which is, in part, a response to the Inflation Reduction Act, but I wouldn't want to put it down entirely to that because Australia has its own ambitions to become, and the government has stated it has its own ambitions to become, a renewable energy superpower. Some of these things made good sense with or without the Inflation Reduction Act, but certainly the need for those kinds of policies has become sharper, and we're very aware of that. We're looking at other pieces of analysis that are available to us as we keep working on that for the government.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: What was the reason that the department of climate change and energy didn't do your own modelling looking at the IRA?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The main modelling capacity for the Commonwealth is now being built up in the Department of the Treasury. We don't have that kind of internal modelling capacity. We do have some internal modelling capacity for the electricity sector specifically, but, once you start to look more broadly at the economy, that's a capability that's being built up in the Treasury, and that's why we ourselves haven't done it.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Did DCCEEW request Treasury do that modelling?</p>	32 - 33
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18	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001318	Catryna Bilyk	Number of electric vehicles	Senator BILYK: ... Approximately how many electric vehicles are on the road according to the latest figures? Mr Ryan: As of July, about 130,000. Senator BILYK: How does that compare to, say, the same time last year? Mr Ryan: I'd have to take that number on notice, but it has more than doubled. Senator BILYK: More than doubled? Mr Ryan: Yes.	34
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19	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001319	Jonathon Duniam	2022 to 2025 emissions projections - methodology	<p>Senator DUNIAM: ... Senator Rice said something that piqued my interest. She made an exclamation about the evidence that was provided here that-and Senator Rice might correct me-ending native forestry is good for climate change. I think that was your point, Senator Rice. Can I understand exactly the evidence that was tendered for Senator Rice to draw that conclusion.</p> <p>Ms Ford: I think you may be referring to some evidence that I provided earlier in the session.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Quite possibly.</p> <p>Ms Ford: I was referring to the 2022 emissions projections-the baseline scenario. In that scenario we found that the net sink in the land sector to 2025 increases mainly due to the sustained impact of the cessation of native timber harvesting, driven by state policies.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Can you explain to me how that is modelled, that projection?</p> <p>Ms Ford: Can you repeat the question?</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: You mentioned that's a projection undertake in 2022 looking forward to 2025. How is that modelling done?</p> <p>Ms Ford: That's a very good question. I might start from the very beginning to talk a little bit about the emissions that are associated with native forest harvesting. Obviously with native forest harvesting there are emissions associated with the harvesting and then there is sequestration, so removals that occur when the forests regrow. There's also the movement of carbon into the harvested waste products pool. The projection takes as its starting point the emissions associated in the national inventory report, and then we project forward using a number of modelling frameworks to understand what the potential net emissions from the land sector might be, including the emissions associated with native forest harvesting. In the projections we</p>	35.36
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					<p>accounted for the state policies that had been announced at the time that the projections were put together, which from memory were state announcements around the cessation or the bringing forward of the cessation of native forest harvesting in Victoria and, I think, Western Australia. Hopefully I've got that right. Yes.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: On notice then I would be interested in the methodology around those calculations. I don't know if it's a per hectare per annum-type of proposition, but on notice if you provide that to me I'd be grateful.</p> <p>Ms Ford: Yes.</p>	
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20	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001320	Jonathon Duniam	Sink projection	<p>Senator DUNIAM: I don't understand this sink projection-I think you referred to it as such. Is it roughly what you call it?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: That is an account of what we are storing here in Australia. Is that right?</p> <p>Ms Ford: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Do we look at anything internationally? I don't want to go down the path of things outside the remit of this department, but obviously cessation of native forest harvesting has an impact on supply of a product here, and we offset that with something somewhere else in the world. Do we do any comparisons internationally, or is it purely a domestic outlook?</p> <p>Ms Ford: The projections are the domestic outlook for Australia's emissions to 2035. In putting together the projections we do need to take into account information about, for example, the international demand for some of Australia's products depending on the sort of sector at hand.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: I'd be interested in some more information on that if at all possible. When you say you take into account demand for Australian products, is that in relation to products that might be derived from those forests that were harvested? Is that what you're talking about?</p> <p>Ms Ford: Yes. I'd need to take the detail of that on notice.</p>	36
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21	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001321	Nick McKim	Battery of the Nation funding request	<p>Senator McKIM: Has any request been received for Battery of the Nation funding for a fourth turbine in the Gordon power station?</p> <p>Ms Gowans: Just at first, I would say that Battery of the Nation is a collection of Tasmanian projects loosely categorised by Tasmania, so DCCEEW does not have Battery of the Nation funding. What DCCEEW does have is Rewiring the Nation, on behalf of the government. Under the Rewiring the Nation program and the deal that was agreed between Minister Bowen and Tasmania, there are some funds that can be used, via an application to the CEFC, for projects that might come within the broad group of the Battery of the Nation collection of projects. My understanding to date is that the CEFC has not received a specific application for funding for any one of those projects.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Does that include Marinus Link, or is that a separate project?</p> <p>Ms Gowans: The CEFC is definitely negotiating very early stages in relation to the funding of Marinus Link.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Okay, but the department has no knowledge of a request for or the provision of any funding for a fourth turbine in the Gordon power station?</p> <p>Ms Gowans: Not to my knowledge. I'd be happy to check.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Could you check that on notice please.</p>	37
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22	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001322	Larissa Waters	Eraring closure timeline	<p>Senator WATERS: ... Could I start off with some questions about Eraring. What are the implications for our 2030 climate target of the New South Wales government keeping Eraring open beyond its scheduled shutdown date?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: My understanding of where New South Wales is at currently, talking to Origin Energy, is that they're in discussions at the moment and no decision has been made at this stage, so we don't have any insight into any details around a possible extension.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Have you modelled the implications of it if they were to extend beyond its scheduled shutdown, as has been mooted?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: We haven't done specific modelling on that question.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: When would that modelling commence?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: We heard a little bit earlier from the modellers around the annual emissions statement. As part of that, were there to be an announcement prior to the emissions projections being finalised, we would undertake modelling in that context.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: And that's got to be done by December, so when do you finish doing the calculations so that you can produce that in December?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to take on notice exactly when we finish. We're still working on those projections now. I think the existing 2022 projections modelled Eraring closing in 2025.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you please take on notice for me what percentage change of the reliability gap there would be if Eraring comes offline as originally scheduled? Thank you. And, what is the expected cost to consumers of keeping Eraring open to meet that reliability standard?</p> <p>Mr Duggan: I suspect this gets to questions that, at this stage,</p>	38
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					<p>only Origin Energy can answer, and that's a conversation that they're having with the New South Wales government at the moment, which, again, we don't have any insight to.</p>	
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23	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001324	Hollie Hughes	Percentage of solar inverters from international markets	<p>Senator HUGHES: For those listening at home, a solar inverter is what we use to convert energy from rooftop solar panels into usable electricity for homes and businesses. Do we know what percentage of these solar inverters are coming from international markets? What percentage are Australian made, owned and operated?</p> <p>Mr Squire: A large proportion of inverters installed in Australia are coming out of China and Austria, in terms of Fronius. I would have to take the exact percentages on notice.</p>	39.4
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24	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001325	Larissa Waters	National Climate Risk assessment timelines	<p>Senator WATERS: As we were discussing before, the projections indicate that this year is now a 99 per cent chance of being the hottest year on record, whereas a year or so ago it was thought that this year wasn't going to be so problematic. Given those really scary meteorological developments, and given the fact that it looks like we've hit the 1½ degree threshold far earlier than we were warned, is the department re-evaluating what that means for Australia and for policy development?</p> <p>Ms Evans: There are two parts to that response. On the emissions reduction side of things, as Senator McAllister already explained, the targets for 2030 are in legislation and they are not changing. We will, as part of all of the work that we are doing on the sectoral plans and the net zero plans, look at what the next target should be for Australia-and I should also say that the 2030 target is a floor, not a ceiling, so we'll still try to do even better than that. It does not change our approach to emissions reduction because, in essence, we are already pushing our emission reductions to go as fast as is possible for Australia. But, on the adaptation and climate risk side of things, we have embarked on the first detailed National Climate Risk Assessment for Australia, and some of these issues around the timing of when some of the higher temperatures might occur may well feature in that analysis.</p> <p>Ms Geiger: As Ms Evans said, we are undertaking for the first time a National Climate Risk Assessment, which is looking at the key risks that Australia will face, which will then feed into a national adaptation plan. We are consulting quite widely because part of the purpose of doing this risk assessment is to develop a shared understanding of what the risks are across the country and across different sectors like health, defence, agriculture, the economy and so on.</p>	43.44
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					<p>Senator WATERS: Could you provide me on notice a little bit more detail about some time lines associated with the project that you've got underway? I am interested particularly, given these new figures, in whether the department is looking at any new initiatives to cut methane, particularly from the coal and gas sector given its short-term potentials-very troubling.</p>	
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25	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001326	Larissa Waters	Gregory Crinum mine - advice from environment minister	<p>Senator WATERS: On that, the Gregory Crinum mine in Queensland, where I'm from, was recently extended by Minister Plibersek, amidst a whole host of other coal approvals that she has ticked off on. I understand that it has actually been extended in a way that means it is now above the safeguard mechanism threshold of 100,000 tonnes of emissions. It's now at 104,500 tonnes. My understanding-and this is what I'm seeking verification of-is that the environment minister is now meant to advise the climate minister of a significant new source of emissions. Has that happened?</p> <p>Ms E Johnson: Yes, it has.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: When did that happen?</p> <p>Ms E Johnson: I'm sorry; I'd have to take that on notice. It was approximately a month or so ago, but I will take on notice the specific date.</p>	44
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26	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001327	Larissa Waters	Gregory Crinum mine reserve	<p>Ms E Johnson: Certainly. To take a step back, the environment minister has delegated the capacity to write with that scope 1 emissions information to an officer in the department. Following the approval of that mine, that officer wrote to the climate change minister, the CEO of the Climate Change Authority and the secretary of the department, as required under the act. We, as the team responsible for the safeguard mechanism within the department, considered that scope 1 emissions information and advised to the secretary accordingly about whether or not the rules needed amendment, based on that emissions information. Based on the information received and the analysis, we advised the secretary that the safeguard rules do not require amendment.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Why was that?</p> <p>Ms E Johnson: You might remember that as we developed the safeguard mechanism reforms, particularly the 4.9 per cent annual decline rate, we built a reserve into that. That reserve is currently 22 million tonnes over the period to 2030. We looked at that-</p> <p>Senator WATERS: It's dipped into the reserve, then, so you don't have to redo the rules-sorry. You keep talking.</p> <p>Ms E Johnson: That's right, effectively. We looked at the particular requirements, the overall emissions budget, the emissions outcome in 2029-30, the emissions outcome in 2049-50 and the five-year rolling average, and we advised the secretary accordingly.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: How much of the reserve has been accessed so far?</p> <p>Ms E Johnson: At the moment, the reserve stands at 22 million tonnes. That's as a result of the latest rule amendment, which was put through on 29 September. From memory, that was after the Gregory Crinum information had come through. I will correct</p>	45
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					<p>that on notice if that sequence was the other way around, but I'm reasonably sure that the sequence was Gregory Crinum and then the rule amendment after that.</p>	
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27	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001637	Susan McDonald	CEFC project proponents in Northern Australia	<p>Senator McDONALD: I have a northern Australia project proponent who received a response from the CEFC without asking any questions of his project, without wanting to see the signed-off agreements, saying it was a finance play. How does that fit within how we are encouraging alternative fuels to come to the market?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: It is difficult to comment on that particular project not knowing the details of it. I would be happy to follow up on the response that was received and make sure that was appropriate.</p>	53
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28	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001308	Susan McDonald	List of projects and future approvals	<p>Senator McDONALD: ...What I'm looking for is, say, the last 12 months and your pipeline for the next 12 months of projects that have been approved. I'm not asking for commercial-in-confidence projects you're considering. I'm trying to ascertain where that movement is from what is probably more recognised technology, because I am very concerned that the first response to this biomass project was immediate and was that it wouldn't be considered. I understand now that there's a meeting going ahead with the alternative fuels investment platform staff, but there shouldn't be a gateway that's shut. It should be, I would've thought, a more open portfolio. So, on notice, if you haven't already provided it, could you provide the analysis of projects approved for funding in the last 12 months and the next 12 months? I'm trying to understand at what point we're pivoting into projects that would receive funding from the private market.</p> <p>Mr Powell: In relation to the last 12 months, they have already been published. They're public on our website. Every quarter we publish a list of all the investments that we've contractually committed to that quarter. So, if you look at the last four of those, that will tell you the whole 12 months.</p> <p>Senator McDONALD: You might send me a link to that?</p> <p>Mr Powell: We can send you a link to that, absolutely.</p> <p>Senator McDONALD: That would be terrific. Then what about the next 12 months?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: We can give you some high-level information about our pipeline and how it looks over the next 12 months. Obviously, a lot of those transactions are commercial-in-confidence, but as I think about what is out there, there's a wide variety of different sorts of transactions, different technologies and different sectors. There are some big transmission projects. There are some battery deals. Increasingly, of course, we need to</p>	54
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					<p>invest in storage to ensure that we've got a safe and reliable grid. There are some wind and solar projects, but, equally, there are investments in the ag sector, alternative fuels and hydrogen. So, yes, I'm happy to give you some information on that.</p> <p>Senator McDONALD: What I'm seeking to understand is the different sectors</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McDONALD: Just back to that request for the information on notice for the future approvals-I'm also seeking to understand the difference between baseload and firming energy solutions, as opposed to variable energy. If you could keep that in mind-that's the sort of information I'm seeking to understand.</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: I'm happy to do that.</p>	
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29	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001310	Janet Rice	Grid constraints	<p>Senator RICE: ... In terms of the headwinds facing the rollout of renewables, how much of that was constrains in the last year-or was it other factors? If it was grid constraints, is there anything more that the CEFC can do to overcome those and get that rollout happening more quickly and more effectively?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: We're doing everything we can on the grid side. Yes, the historic grid constraints have been a challenge across the NEM as renewable energy has been built out on, as we've heard from my colleague, a grid that wasn't really designed for distributed energy generation. There have been things like marginal loss factors and projects having to be constrained. Those things have been a challenge. Everyone knows what the issues are, and we and the rest of the energy ecosystem are all working to address them.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Perhaps you could take notice specifically what you are doing to address those constraints that will mean that things are going to improve in the future.</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: We might also see if the department might provide a response to that. From the government's perspective, the financing piece is very important. It's why we have provided the money through Rewiring the Nation: so there is a pool of finance to support the buildout of transmission and concessional finance so that the impacts on consumers are less than they might be. But there are a range of other things that need to be repaired in our National Energy Market that had been left unattended for a very long time by the previous government. I won't run through them now, because the chair has asked us to think about the time, but there's quite a long list of things which are quite separate from the finance that are being done to ensure that the path towards 82 per cent remains open to us. We'll</p>	59
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					<p>provide that to you. Senator RICE: I'd be very happy to hear from the department as well.</p>	
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30	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001309	Janet Rice	Grid constraints - CEFC	<p>Senator RICE: ... In terms of the headwinds facing the rollout of renewables, how much of that was constrains in the last year-or was it other factors? If it was grid constraints, is there anything more that the CEFC can do to overcome those and get that rollout happening more quickly and more effectively?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: We're doing everything we can on the grid side. Yes, the historic grid constraints have been a challenge across the NEM as renewable energy has been built out on, as we've heard from my colleague, a grid that wasn't really designed for distributed energy generation. There have been things like marginal loss factors and projects having to be constrained. Those things have been a challenge. Everyone knows what the issues are, and we and the rest of the energy ecosystem are all working to address them.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Perhaps you could take notice specifically what you are doing to address those constraints that will mean that things are going to improve in the future.</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: I'm happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: We might also see if the department might provide a response to that. From the government's perspective, the financing piece is very important. It's why we have provided the money through Rewiring the Nation: so there is a pool of finance to support the buildout of transmission and concessional finance so that the impacts on consumers are less than they might be. But there are a range of other things that need to be repaired in our National Energy Market that had been left unattended for a very long time by the previous government. I won't run through them now, because the chair has asked us to think about the time, but there's quite a long list of things which are quite separate from the finance that are being done to ensure that the path towards 82 per cent remains open to us. We'll</p>	59
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					<p>provide that to you. Senator RICE: I'd be very happy to hear from the department as well.</p>	
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31	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001328	Ross Cadell	Snowy 2.0 order for production of documents	<p>Senator CADELL: I have a different topic if you want to keep on going. In a Senate order for production for the project research document, it came through at 110 pages, with 44 fully redacted; only 14 unredacted, many of those press releases; and nothing in the documents and project status are about the project reset and its assessment test-that was completely redacted. Given other processes of Snowy have been released before, why isn't this available?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I might refer that to the department.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I'm happy to speak through it. I think that the material that was provided to the Senate was accompanied by a letter which set out the grounds on which material had been redacted. Those grounds included the following: where material was out of scope of the request or contained the personal information of departmental officials below the SES level, the personal information of ministerial staff or the personal information of non-executive Snowy Hydro staff, the text was redacted or withheld. The letter from Mr Bowen went on to say: In addition, some documents have been redacted where they contain commercial-in-confidence material of Snowy Hydro Limited, and other third-party entities it contracts with. The release of this material is contrary to the public interest on the basis its disclosure would disadvantage Snow Hydro Limited, advantage competitors, diminish Snow Hydro Limited's ability to contribute to the security and reliability of the renewable energy market in Australia and correspondingly detrimentally impact Australian energy consumers.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Thanks, Minister. Minister Chris Bowen was on ABC Radio this morning with Sabra Lane. I have text here of things that might need to be tabled. In it he says he is concerned about the lack of public disclosure of the delays and blowouts, with the</p>	68
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					<p>project now doubling since May 2023. If we're concerned with the lack of disclosure now, there is an opportunity to put these items on the public record now, and the department is not doing it now. I understand that personal information was in the press releases. That was contact information. The management plan that looked like the project management plan was fully redacted. There wasn't a word available on it, on what seems to be five or six pages of that at the rear end. It cannot all be commercial-in-confidence. Will you table it now?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I think Minister Bowen has made clear those aspects of the plan that may not be released. So I'll take that on notice. I think that the same grounds that were provided to the Senate would likely be provided again in relation to the request you are making now.</p>	
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32	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001329	Ross Cadell	Snowy Hydro delegation to Italy	<p>Senator CADELL: Was a delegation taken to Italy earlier this year?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Yes, we went to see the senior representatives of the contractor in Italy in late March, early April.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Who led the delegation and who was on it?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: It was my chairman, David Knox, me, Mr Whitby, the project director at the time and the engineering director at the time.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Who did you meet with when you were there?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: We met with Claudio Lautizi, who is the chief operating officer; Pietro Salini, who is the CEO; and a number of their staff including the regional head, Marco Assorati, and the project director-</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Would you table the diary of you and your chairman for the trip?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I don't see any reason why we wouldn't. It was a short trip.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: So you will?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I am happy to provide it on notice.</p>	69
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33	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001330	Malcolm Roberts	Notification of Florence tunnelling machine becoming bogged	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Minister, before you do, were they lying to you? When did you know about the machine being bogged?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I will take that on notice. You will understand that I don't have all of the communications between the authority and shareholder ministers, so I will see what I can provide.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I would like to know when you found out the machine was bogged, if you made inquiries beforehand, were they lying to you, and whether or not you were misled.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I will take those questions on notice.</p> <p>Further question on page 76</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: ...</p> <p>Minister, you've already taken the question on notice about accountability when ministers were told about this being bogged and so on. I'd like to know what you will do about Snowy 2.0 officers who misled or grossly erred in their responses to stakeholder ministers and to Senate estimates?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Senator Roberts, your question assumes that those things happened.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Let's put the word 'if' in there.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I'm not going to speculate about things that may or may not have happened. But I did take your earlier question on notice, which was in relation to what communications occurred between Snowy and the government in relation to the tunnel boring machine, and we'll see what information can be provided.</p>	70 - 76
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34	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001331	Malcolm Roberts	Movement of Florence tunnel-boring machine	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Mr Barnes, could you give me on notice the movement of the machine, in metres, between November 2022 and February 2023, between February 2023 and May 2023, and from May 2023 to now?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you.</p>	71
35	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001332	Fatima Payman	Launch date for Florence	<p>Senator PAYMAN: Can I confirm when Florence was launched again?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I'll take it on notice, but the ballpark is October 2022.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: Thank you.</p>	72
36	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001333	Ross Cadell	Snowy 2.0 modelling	<p>Senator CADELL: You said earlier that a third party checked the modelling and gave a \$3 billion net benefit. Will you table that?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: We were working with the shareholding departments on an approval, and that will include the revenue case, and I'm sure they will-</p> <p>Senator CADELL: I understand that, but nothing is out of the scope of approval of taxpayer money now. Will you table that third-party modelling you referred to earlier?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: As we work through the approval with the shareholding departments, then there'll be-</p> <p>Senator CADELL: I hear you. Are you going to make a public interest immunity claim now on not tabling that issue?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: We'll take it on notice, Senator Cadell. I think you'd understand that there are a range of reasons why that modelling may be sensitive.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: I understand, Minister, that that document has been used in an answer today to back up a position. If it exists- and we know it does, because it has been used-it should be</p>	74

					disclosed. Senator McAllister: I'll take that on notice, Senator Cadell.	
37	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001334	Ross Cadell	Number of times production has stopped on Snowy and Kurri Kurri sites	<p>Senator CADELL: How many times has production been stopped on both Snowy and Kurri sites for poor performance or poor safety issues?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I'll take the actual number on notice, but individual worksites are often stopped proactively by Snowy management or the contractor to correct any control failures.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: For the exact number, would you have a ballpark? Are we talking single digits, double digits, hundreds?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: In the way you're characterising it, a full standdown would be relatively low numbers.</p> <p>Senator CADELL: Has any production stopped, not forced to shut down across the site?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	74

38	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001335	Ross Cadell	Internal rate of return for Kurri Kurri	<p>Senator CADELL: ... What is the current internal rate of return for Kurri? In 2021 it was given at 12.8.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I'd have to take that on notice, and, subject to the release-</p>	75
39	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001336	Malcolm Roberts	Snowy 2.0 total cost including transmission lines	<p>Senator ROBERTS: ... The total cost of this project, including transmission lines, to get it into a working state without further delays is likely to be around \$20 billion. How much will it cost to stop and just walk away from this mess?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I mean, obviously I'm responsible for delivering Snowy 2.0-</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: You were handed a pup.</p> <p>Mr Barnes: which has a project cost of \$12 billion. It currently has a positive business case of \$3 billion, so we haven't contemplated that question. But the spend to date, which we have made public, as at 1 July was \$4.3 billion.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: That includes everything? Ready to go?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: That was the progress-</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Power delivery?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I was saying that the project cost is \$12 billion. At 1 July this year we had spent \$4.3 billion.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Okay. How much do you expect the total cost to be now, including the transmission lines needed to be constructed to take the power from Snowy 2.0?</p> <p>Mr Barnes: I have no responsibility for the transmission lines, their cost or their timing, but the Snowy 2.0 project I expect to be \$12 billion.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: This was something we raised right from the start because they always knew that Snowy 2.0 would need additional transmission lines and other things. So, Minister, perhaps you could get that cost on notice, please, because it's</p>	76

					<p>obviously beyond Mr Barnes. That is not a slight on Mr Barnes; it's beyond his authority.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Thanks, Senator. I'll take it on notice.</p>	
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40	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001343	Jonathon Duniam	New environment laws - consultation invitations to organisations	<p>Page 87:</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The minister had committed several times to a public release of an exposure draft of the package, which was going to include several pieces of legislation. We've now had clarity that that is not going to happen; instead, this consultative group will have access to that information. The public won't see it until it's tabled in the parliament.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: The proposal is that there be deep consultation with subject matter experts from business, industry, environment groups, the science community and civil society. There will be an opportunity to stress-test a range of elements of the package-the policy settings and definitions, the national environmental standards-and then an introduction at some point next year.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perhaps somebody from the department may be able to shed some more specific light on this. Is the consultation group 30 individuals that represent 30 organisations, or is it 30 organisations, which might mean multiple individuals from each organisation on that committee?</p> <p>....</p> <p>Page 99</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: I have the list of organisations invited to the rolling consultations-the initial list that was produced on 12 October. I seek to table that for the committee and put that into evidence.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. Senator Duniam.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: That list that you've just tabled, Mr Tregurtha-the invitations were dispatched on the 12th?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: How many of those have you had responses from?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: Senator-</p>	87 & 99
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					<p>Senator DUNIAM: I'll ask for a response on notice.</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: We didn't seek responses to that invitation. It was more an initial invitation. We then needed to follow it with an email about logistics and timing, which followed, so the responses would be to that latter email.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: What date was the subsequent email?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: I'll have to-</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Perhaps HQ could come back to us on that. I notice on the list here there is a reference to the Environmental Defenders Office.</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: Sorry, Senator-can I jump in and answer your previous question?</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Yes, of course you can.</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: RSVPs are due this coming Wednesday, so they weren't actually due. We've had a few come back, but not all.</p>	
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41	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001337	David Pocock	Meetings with stakeholders about EPBC reforms	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I'm just following up from Senator Hanson-Young's and Senator Duniam's questions about engagement. On a question on notice-I think it was from Senator Duniam at the last estimates-the minister had had five meetings with stakeholders about EPBC reforms, and I think three of those meetings were with the Business Council of Australia. Could you update us on how many more meetings the minister has had?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: The department doesn't run the minister's diary, but I'm happy to take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: You don't attend EPBC briefings and meetings with her?</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: On some occasions we do, but not necessarily all of them. So, in order to get you the appropriate information, I'd like to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Sure, take it on notice.</p>	94
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42	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001338	David Pocock	Spending on the environment	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: ... A few weeks ago, the minister claimed that spending on the environment is the highest it has ever been under this government.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Under this government?</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Well, ever-</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ever.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: in Australia's history, but delivered by this government. I'm keen just to unpack that claim a little bit. Have you provided advice to the minister that this is the case?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: What we have said is that, over the forward estimates, when we added up all the commitments made by the government with respect to spending on the environment and the nature-positive related mission, it added up to \$4.8 billion. I haven't personally done the analysis on whether that is the highest level of spending, so we'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: So you don't understand the basis of that claim?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't personally, no.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: That \$4.8 billion is over four years?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That's over the forward estimates, correct.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I might put some stuff on notice about comparing that historically. Would that all be on environmental protection, or is there money there going to water and other things? What's that?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: It goes to a range of things. I can give you a few illustrative examples, if that's helpful, of the larger items.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We've got \$1.2 billion being spent on the Great Barrier Reef, \$1.1 billion being spent on the National Heritage Trust, and \$231 million to extend an additional ten Indigenous protected areas, to give you an idea. So it's a range, quite frankly,</p>	94 - 95
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					<p>of initiatives across the country. All of them have an element of conservation and protection associated with them.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: But not all of them are environmental protection per se?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: It depends on what you mean by 'environmental protection', because of the line between protection and conservation. 'Conservation' is just a slightly broader term, generally, in this space. But you can certainly argue that all of these initiatives-</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I don't know how the concept of protecting the environment can be misinterpreted or not understood properly.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Listen: all I wanted to say is that 'protection' implies a certain set of activities, generally, for government officials.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Protecting, usually.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Right, through regulation et cetera. 'Conservation' can have a broader determination.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I was looking at the forward estimates. The funding for conserving, protecting, managing and natural resources-really all investment in nature and environmental protection-is stable, if not reducing slightly, over the forward estimates. Do you agree that there's a slight taper in investment over the forwards, year on year?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I don't believe so, but I don't want to mislead you, so I'm very happy to come back with a comparison over the forward estimates-sorry, a historical comparison of spending on environmental or related initiatives.</p>	
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43	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001339	David Pocock	Investment into threatened species	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Of that record investment, how much is for threatened species?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'll have to come back to you with the specifics, but I can say that the Natural Heritage Trust, for example-that \$1.1 billion-is principally about species protection and conservation. We can certainly expand on that. There are a number of programs that are within that, including the Saving Native Species program, which is \$224 million in that space, as an illustrative example.</p>	95
44	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001350	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous cultural heritage laws - cultural heritage alliance entities	<p>Senator DUNIAM: In terms of those 36 entities, the First Nations traditional owner representative groups, are there any from Tasmania?</p> <p>Ms Dumazel: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Parry: We've got the list here, if you just give us a minute. It is publicly available on the website, as to all the different groups that make up the cultural heritage alliance, so just give us a minute to find it.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Sure, that's fine.</p>	101

45	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001357	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous cultural heritage laws - election commitment	<p>Ms Dumazel: With the reforms, there are a number of elements that we're looking at. For example, one of the aspects is around engagement in decision-making and the idea of having the conversations early on, before a project might even start. So we're looking at participation in decision-making. We're also looking at cultural heritage mapping and information. They're part of those conversations. The other conversations are around data. So there are a number of elements of the reforms that we're working through with the alliance, and the central team are involved in those discussions as well.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: In terms of the timeline, again, and it potentially blowing out past the next election, because there's no commitment to doing it before, when did we first become aware that that was going to be an issue?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I don't think we would describe it as an issue.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: I did, sorry.</p> <p>Ms Parry: The government has committed to the reforms. They've committed to ensuring that they get those reforms right. They've committed to early engagement and deep engagement on a co-designed process with the cultural heritage alliance. This process started in 2021, when the original partnership was formed in response to the destruction of Juukan Gorge. It has carried on under successive governments, and this government has committed to the legislative reform process. But they have committed to getting it right and taking the time to get it right. To Ms Dumazel's earlier points, we are deep in the design process now. We are grappling with some complex issues around ownership, who speaks for country, data, compliance and enforcement, so there is clarity for proponents and for people who might engage with the future reform. Once we have something to go out to consultation with, we will absolutely be</p>	102
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				<p>going out and engaging more broadly. That will take time.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: I dispute nothing you said. All of that makes absolute sense. But I guess my question was around when it became clear that original proposed timelines were not going to be met. We're now talking more open ended. There's no end date to this. There's no commitment to doing it before the election. We've just had a significant focus on the EPBC reforms, which, of course, don't seem to fit into any particular time frame either. So I am interested to know when it became apparent that we now need to go away into a lot more work on a very complex issue.</p> <p>Ms Parry: It was always recognised that this was a complex issue and that it was going to take time to work through.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: So why did we set down a time frame if it was always recognised as complex?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I think the aspiration was to have something more publicly available this year. That might still happen, depending on how those continued engagements go with the cultural heritage alliance. Again, our focus has been to work through the detail and get it right.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: Minister, do you have anything to add in relation to those questions around timelines? I know officials are constrained in what they say, but what is the government's intention?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Only to say that I think I was asked about this in a previous estimates and made the point that in addition to traditional owners there are other groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may wish to be involved in the process. That might include different types of family groups, native title holders and Indigenous organisations. When you try and work deeply with a diverse community it can take time. We recognised that at the time we embarked on this journey. It is important to</p>	
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					<p>get it right.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: This was an election commitment, to have it done by a specified point in time?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I will have to check on that. As you know, I represent Minister Plibersek in this forum, so I will need to check on what commitments were there. Fundamentally, we need to do this collaboratively with First Nations people. And then we need to engage with the other stakeholders who have interests in the operations of these laws.</p>	
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46	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001358	Peter Whish-Wilson	Maugean skate - attendees of minister's meeting with aquaculture industry Tasmania	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I'm keen to see how the national recovery team works. That's a joint initiative team between the Tasmanian and federal governments. The federal government have put a couple of million dollars of funding into that; is that correct?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: The federal government have put \$2.15 million most recently, but there's about \$6.6 million of federal government funding all up. That's not going into the recovery team-that's into urgent actions for the Maugean skate, focused on captive breeding and community engagement. The recovery team is bringing together the relevant stakeholders to work through those issues-</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Sorry to interrupt: to be clear, is the recovery team tying together some of those urgent actions that are provided for in the conservation advice?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: Yes. The conservation advice provides at a higher level the key threats and urgent actions that are required for the skate. But to really drill down into and understand what action needs to be taken when, by whom, and over what time frames requires a little more work-the working group and the recovery team are doing that at the moment.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: So that's the recovery team's work-to identify the priorities and take action?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: Yes. As you can appreciate, the science around this species is very complex. Even since the conservation advice was published, more information has come to light through us convening these experts not only from Tasmania and the mainland but also internationally with experts in this field.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I might come back to that I understand the minister recently met with the aquaculture industry in Tasmania. Could you tell me who was present at that meeting?</p>	103 - 104
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47	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001359	Peter Whish-Wilson	Recovery team - conflicts of interest	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: The latest communique from the recovery team from 12 October-after their 9 October meeting-didn't reference the conservation action plan, which is the Tasmanian government's plan, nor did it reference any action that was recommended under the Commonwealth's conservation advice. I am shortening my paraphrasing of DCEEW's conservation advice for the Maugean skate, but it did recommend urgent actions in the near future-prior to summer 23-including a reduction in salmonid aquaculture organic loads, which it concluded is having catastrophic impacts on the species, saying: There is a significant correlation between the reduction in dissolved oxygen levels and increases in salmonid aquaculture due to the bacterial degradation of organic material introduced into the water column from fish-feed and fish-waste. Could you tell me why the recovery team hasn't said anything about either the state plan or about acting on the Commonwealth advice?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: The presentation on the process for developing the Tasmanian national recovery action plan was provided by Tasmania's Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The recovery team and the working groups under the recovery team have talked about their recommendations in the conservation advice, including the prospect of lowering salmon biomass. It's a complex beast-</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: To be specific, have they talked about it at those meetings?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: Yes. As you can appreciate, there's a complex group of stakeholders in the room who have different values and different expectations, and there hasn't been a consensus view on that topic in the room. That doesn't mean that it's not an action that would result in the raising of oxygen levels and improved</p>	104
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					<p>conditions for the Maugean skate; it just means that not everyone in the room has agreed to that.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: On that point, I know the aquaculture industry is represented in that group. Do the terms of reference require them to recuse themselves in discussions around the impacts of the salmonid industry on the skate, and did they do that in the meeting?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: The recovery team does ask members to declare conflicts of interest, and pretty much every member of the recovery team has a conflict of interest in some way, shape or form. I'd have to take on notice exactly what conflicts of interest have been declared ...</p>	
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48	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001360	Peter Whish-Wilson	Briefing from the Bureau of Meteorology	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Has the department sought a briefing from BOM with an updated forecast at a granular level for Macquarie Harbour, for the west coast of Tasmania?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: When was that? Would that be available for other people-for me, for example? Would you be able to table that for me or provide that?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: I'm not sure what we've got in writing to provide to you; however, we have had BOM actively engaged in the working groups-</p>	106
49	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001362	David Pocock	Budget for threatened species	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: I know we've covered this ground before in estimates, but the Biodiversity Council, who you may be aware of, put out a report looking at what it would take to halt extinctions and save our threatened species. They talk about EPBC reform and all these things that we're talking about, but then they say that \$2 billion a year is needed, targeting threatened species. You're saying it's \$1.2 billion across the board broadly. In their own report, they say there's a 93 per cent underspend. I'm just interested: how are we going to save these species if the Biodiversity Council is saying we've got a 93 per cent underspend? I'm not hearing that there's more money on the way. What's the secret here?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We had the budget in October 2022 and the budget in May, so we've had two budgets, and we already have \$4.8 billion that the Commonwealth alone committed.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: But how much of that is new money?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I can come back to you on the specific number.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: That would be great.</p>	107

50	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001361	David Pocock	Draft swift parrot recovery plan	<p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: You confirmed that forestry is one of the key threats to the parrot. Why wasn't that in the draft?</p> <p>Dr Kiessling: The draft swift parrot recovery plan had extensive consultation. There were a range of public comments that came in, and those comments were considered in finalising the plan. Forestry was identified as a key threat to the species in the draft plan, and habitat protection was also identified as being very important. The comments that came in were, as I said, taken into consideration in finalising the plan. If we compare the draft that went out for public consultation and the draft that has been endorsed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, the changes that were made were primarily in terms of adding to the detail around the habitat critical to the survival of the species. So there were extensive additions that were made in relation to the habitat of the species. There were no substantive changes to the actions. There were only a couple of actions that were removed because they had actually been completed in the time that it had taken for the public consultation to happen. So there were no substantive changes to the description of the threats to the species, insofar as forestry was identified as a clear threat and a primary threat to the species, both in Tasmania and on the mainland, and actions in terms of protection of habitat were identified as being deeply important to the species.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: So native forest logging was identified as a key threat in the draft-</p> <p>Dr Kiessling: And it continues to be-</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: and there was no attempt to try and remove that with comments from the Commonwealth or Tasmania.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I think what we've said a couple of times is that there were comments that were received from a range of</p>	107
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					<p>sources.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: You've said that, but-</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I don't think it's really our place to speculate about what the motivation was-</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Who were those comments from?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: We could take on notice where all the different comments came from.</p> <p>Dr Kiessling: There were 24 submissions that were made.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Yes, we can provide those on notice. But it wasn't a single source or anything like that. It was a comprehensive consultation process.</p>	
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51	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001363	David Pocock	Money spent on the environment	<p>Mr Hanlon: If I can, just quickly: as to the \$4.8 billion, we did that as a department. We compared the environment spend. We used the same methodology that was used by the previous department, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The funding is higher than what was previously used. That's the difference.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Was that adjusted for inflation?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: No.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Did the minister ask you to check that?</p> <p>Mr Hanlon: It came out of the last estimates when we were asked about the spend by Senator Hanson-Young, I think. We took that on notice, and that's when we came up with the methodology to get to \$4.8 million.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think the CFO has given the answer. It came out at the estimates. That's when he did the methodology. It became obvious when we did the methodology comparing to the previous spend that this spend was bigger, and the minister's office is aware of that fact.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: If it is adjusted for inflation, would it still be?</p> <p>CHAIR: There are a lot of senators here with questions to ask.</p> <p>Senator DAVID POCOCK: Please take it on notice.</p>	108 - 109
52	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001364	Fatima Payman	List of renewable energy projects	<p>Senator PAYMAN: My questions are around renewable energy projects. I know that Minister Plibersek signed off on a number of renewable energy projects recently. Could you outline which projects these have been? So what's the number of renewable energy projects the minister has signed off since coming to office and where are those projects?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: First of all, that number is 37 renewable energy</p>	111

					projects since coming to office. I'm not sure I have a full list of which ones they are, so we can take that on notice.	
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53	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001365	Fatima Payman	Renewable project referrals	<p>Mr Edwards: There's certainly a ramp up. We're having more renewables referrals to the department, and they certainly are coming through more rapidly and so we're obviously trying to turn around all projects on statutory time frames. But, yes, it's growing as a percentage of our case load.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: So you would characterise the rate as 'growing'?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: Okay. Can you give the committee a sense of the size of these approvals? Take the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub, for example. What is the scale of a project like that?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: One moment, Senator; we'll just see if we've got that.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: No worries.</p> <p>Mr Say: The Melton Renewable Energy Hub, now the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub, was 1,200 megawatts of storage and 12.5 megawatts of solar.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: Okay. Are you able to give the committee a sense of the size of these approvals? Are they generally big projects?</p> <p>Mr Say: They're a range of sizes. Some are very large; some are smaller. Across the 37 projects that have been green lit by this government, there's the full gamut.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: And how many homes can these projects power?</p> <p>Mr Say: I don't have that information.</p> <p>Mr Edwards: Sorry, we don't have that. In terms of scale, the other thing to add to that is we only assess things that are going to have a significant impact on the matters we protect. By virtue, they are generally quite large projects that we're looking at, but we could take on notice the number of homes that it would</p>	112
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					<p>power. It's a quite substantial number, I think.</p> <p>Senator PAYMAN: Okay. Are you able to outline what sorts of jobs are created by these projects?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: Again, Senator, that's not the sort of thing we collect as part of an environmental approval, but we can see what we do have and then come back on that.</p>	
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54	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001366	Janet Rice	Plantations in northern New South Wales	<p>Senator RICE: My last question is with regard to plantations in northern New South Wales. Is the department, or the minister, aware that native vegetation, including natural forest, old-growth forest and rainforest, may be cleared under New South Wales legislation governing plantations?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No. We'll have to follow up on that and come back to you on notice, but we'll have a discussion with the New South Wales government to better understand that issue.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Okay, because there's a definition that allows for clearing of this native vegetation if it's under a hectare for plantation design purposes, for infrastructure, or for areas over 30 hectares, if those areas are offset. So yes, perhaps you could come back to me about what the Commonwealth's view is on that practice.</p>	114
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55	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001340	Jonathon Duniam	Costs associated with Marburg and new radar arrangements	<p>Senator DUNIAM: Sure. Okay. If I can just move to a couple of smaller specific projects I'm interested in, very quickly, Chair. With regard to Mount Stapylton and the radar infrastructure there, are there any plans, either with the bureau or government more broadly, or is there any funding in place, to improve the infrastructure there?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Mount Stapylton is a relatively young piece of infrastructure. The bureau has 69 radars around the country, ranging from almost brand new to 30-plus years old. Mount Stapylton is a relatively young piece of equipment.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: So no plans for that one?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: There are no plans to replace it. What I would say, though, is that the backup system for Brisbane or the Brisbane area at Marburg is being replaced. The Marburg radar is in the process of being replaced. We're also in the process of selecting a site to put a new radar on the Darling Downs, probably just north of Toowoomba near Crows Nest. Whilst these upgrades and new installations are taking place, we've also got a temporary radar in place at Brisbane Airport. Being a Brisbane resident myself I take a-it's not that I take a stronger interest in Brisbane than anywhere else in Australia, but I have a direct line of feedback from the community in Brisbane around services with Mount Stapylton, so I can assure residents who might be listening to this broadcast around Mount Stapylton that we've got quite a lot of redundancy</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: ... On notice, if you could provide a few more details around the dollar costs associated with both the Marburg and the new radar arrangements, and any other detail, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm happy to.</p>	116
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56	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001341	Barbara Pocock	Budget for Robust system	<p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: What is the current estimate of the total cost of Robust, and how does it compare with your original target.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: As I said, we're confident eight months out that we'll be able to deliver within the agreed budget parameters. When the government made a decision to fund Robust for both national security and commercial-in-confidence reasons, the decision was taken by cabinet that the funding envelope be not for publication, so I'm not in a position to disclose. That's been a longstanding convention at this committee.</p> <p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: Could you give on notice the decision-making machinery which said that the budget amount was never to be published?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Sure.</p>	117
57	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001342	Barbara Pocock	Penalty clauses for consulting contracts	<p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: Do the contracts you have with organisations like Deloitte and Accenture have penalty clauses for when things go wrong?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Again, I may have to take that on notice. I would assume that they do. We have so many that I'm not across the detail of individual contracts, but, generally, it would be standard practice. I'm looking at Ms Goodwin, our chief operating officer. You're not sure. We can take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: If you could take that on notice, because I'm curious to know what the penalty clauses are in the consultant contracts that you're dealing with. Have you had occasion to implement or activate any of those penalty clauses?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Not to my knowledge, but that doesn't mean to say that we have. We've got hundreds of contracts, and I'm not across the detail of every one, as you would expect. I'm not aware of those.</p>	118

					<p>Senator BARBARA POCOCK: If you could take it on notice and correct it if it's incorrect.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm happy to.</p>	
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58	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001345	Peter Whish-Wilson	Tasmanian Government briefing	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Just as a matter of interest: do you give heatwave warning briefings or presentations on the ocean to different stakeholders?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes, we do. We work very closely with the marine park authority; they would be our primary partner in terms of ocean temperatures. We also work with the fishing sector. We stand ready to brief anyone who has a particular interest in these matters</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Could you take on notice whether you did a briefing recently for the Tasmanian government for the west coast, for the aquaculture industry.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I think we have. We were requested by DCCEEW some time ago to provide some meteorological and national geographic support to matters of interest in Macquarie Harbour.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: That's the one.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Given the significance of the issue at hand, we have made our staff available to support the department in any way we can. I understand those briefings have occurred.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Are they available for the public?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I can't see any reason why they wouldn't be.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can I ask you to provide a copy of those, if you could, on notice.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'd have to consult with the department, but prima facie I can see no reason why they wouldn't be publicly available.</p>	122
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59	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001346	Malcolm Roberts	Number of weather stations	<p>Senator ROBERTS: You and the government claim that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are detrimentally affecting climate and that, as a consequence, carbon dioxide from human activity needs to be cut, necessitating cuts in the use of gas, petrol, coal, oil, diesel and farm grazing of cattle, sheep and pigs. Given what you claim about carbon dioxide from human activity, could you please provide me, on notice, with the total number of bureau weather stations from which weather data is collected for the bureau to use, both those that the bureau operates and those that other individuals or entities operate, and, of them, the number that measure atmospheric carbon dioxide levels?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Okay. I can probably answer that now.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Sure.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: The CO2 levels for our region are measured at Kennaook/Cape Grim, north-west Tasmania. That's one of three, I think, global baseline CO2 measuring stations. That's where those stations measure. There are many, many, many pieces of equipment in the field that measure local CO2 emissions for all sorts of reasons, but in terms of the global baseline station, that is at Cape Grim-Kennaook.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I want to know how many stations you have, how many your colleagues-</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: And how many measure carbon dioxide levels.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: And could you provide the locations of any other entities' stations that are measuring carbon dioxide levels whose data the bureau relies upon for its climate reports and claims, both within Australia and overseas? You've already</p>	124
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					mentioned three. Dr Johnson: Yes.	
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60	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001349	Malcolm Roberts	Rate of temperature increase since 1995	<p>Senator ROBERTS: ... Given that the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels over the short term and without spatial and temporal context have increased substantially, what impact has this had on global and national atmospheric temperatures? Specifically, what is the rate of temperature increase over the period 1995 to today?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Again, you're asking me a specific question on a specific set of dates. I don't have that number with me.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No, on notice. I'm happy for you to do that on notice.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: If we have that data, I'll provide it, sure.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I'm sure you've got the temperature data. Could you please specify in your answer the statistical methods and procedures, as well as the data periods and sources of data. Could you please use the global and national atmospheric temperature data from the following sources: from the Bureau of Meteorology, obviously, atmospheric temperature data for Australia and the world-</p>	125
61	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001348	Malcolm Roberts	Carbon dioxide atmospheric mixing	<p>Senator ROBERTS: How well is carbon dioxide mixed in the atmosphere?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: How well is it mixed?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: How well mixed is it?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm not an expert on carbon dioxide atmospheric mixing.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: How does it vary temporally, spatially and with regard to surface cover-for example, vegetation type?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not in expert in those matters.</p>	125

62	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001347	Malcolm Roberts	Measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels	<p>Senator ROBERTS: All the Scripps and CSIRO measurement stations reveal no decrease or downward inflection, just continued rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. This real-world empirical evidence proves that drastic cuts in carbon dioxide from human activity have no effect on atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Making the drastic cuts is pointless and is damaging economically and socially. On notice, could you please specify the dates, quantity and duration of any inflections or downturns on those graphs?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'm happy to, Senator. But, very quickly-with the chair's indulgence-the premise of your question is false. It is a well-established fact that the consequences of human activity have long lag periods between when they occur and when they're observed in the atmosphere. So, even if CO2 emissions were to stop today, the atmosphere is loaded, as is the ocean, and it will take centuries for that signature to work its way through; hence the urgency around the challenge to reduce emissions now.</p>	125
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63	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001351	Perin Davey	Progress of co-funding agreements with states	<p>Senator DAVEY: In your discussions with other states-you've progressed well with New South Wales; I'm very pleased to hear that, but I'm not parochial. In Western Australia, particularly up around the Fitzroy basin, my understanding is there are currently only two gauges in the whole Fitzroy basin that provide flood warning data to the west. Have you had conversations at that level, and is there going to be scope to improve the warning systems in that region?</p> <p>Dr Stone: Yes.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Yes, but too premature to give me a detailed answer?</p> <p>Dr Stone: Yes. We don't have the detail on that at the moment.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Just on that, we're very cognisant of the risk there and the significant trauma that communities in the Fitzroy catchment went through at the start of this year. Our team in Perth, working with their national hydrologic colleagues, are paying particular attention to supporting the community there. Our group executive of community services was in the region two weeks ago. We are deeply sensitive to the sensitivity there, with another wet season coming. Even though there's been enormous progress on the replacement bridge, there's still a lot of folks there that are not back in their own houses et cetera, so it's a real watch point for us. We're putting appropriate management attention towards it.</p> <p>Senator DAVEY: Would it be possible, on notice, to provide us with a table of the progress with each state and where you're at-Queensland you've done an audit that might be publicly available, and New South Wales progress-just so we've got a bit of Gantt chart that we can follow?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Sure. I'm happy to do that.</p>	127
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64	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001352	David Van	Dugongs caught in gillnets	<p>Senator VAN: In terms of incidents of dugongs that have been caught by gillnets, do you have any statistics on that? Do you keep records of bycatch in gillnets, or would dugongs-</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I don't have those statistics here with me now, but, yes, there are statistics. They're self-reported by the industry, and assessment is done by the scientific people that we draw on in pulling together our reports on the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the impacts on those threatened species.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Can I ask you to put on notice those reports, by the type of catch but also the type of bycatch-so which animals were caught in that? Is it also possible to break it down by licensed fishermen, illegal fishers, traditional owners and others that take that bycatch?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: We can try and do that to the greatest extent possible. We know what we know about illegal fishing, and we don't know the other illegal fishing that is done-</p> <p>Senator VAN: I know you do great work on that exact thing across the reef.</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Yes, we certainly have compliance data around where there have been illegal interactions or other issues of concern that we can come back to you with more detail on.</p> <p>Senator VAN: If you could come back with that,</p>	130 - 131
65	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001353	David Van	Barramundi fishing	<p>Senator VAN: Have you or anyone else gone out with the barramundi fishers to see how they ply their craft?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I haven't personally been out with a barramundi fisher. I'm not sure if my team has.</p> <p>Senator VAN: You can take that one notice, too!</p> <p>Mr Thomas: We do have a lot of experts in the organisation who are very across the industry.</p> <p>Senator VAN: If there's any other information you want to put on</p>	131

					<p>notice or on record for me to look at, I'll take it all.</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Thanks.</p>	
66	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001354	Peter Whish-Wilson	Phasing out of gillnets - monitoring expenditure	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: ... I understand there was a Queensland government and federal government package of \$160 million compensation for affected fishers and an allocation of funds to improve fisheries' transparency and sustainability. How is the department monitoring the expenditure of \$160 million in terms of phasing out gillnets?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: The marine park authority has been involved in that process, but we're not in control of the implementation of that package. The Queensland government has \$100 million for the structural adjustment of the industry, which I believe they're working away assiduously on to make sure that it's deployed reasonably, and the federal department has some \$60 million for the other component.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: How is the department monitoring the implementation of that funding?</p> <p>Ms Parry: I probably have to take that specific question on notice because our monitoring people have long gone home, but I can tell you about the breakdown of the \$62 million if you're interested.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Parry: That was part of the joint package. So \$62 million went to the design and implementation of the independent data</p>	131 - 132

					<p>validation on the high-risk fisheries, bycatch reduction initiatives, shifts to fishing gears that pose a lower risk to protected species and the improved traceability of coral in the coral harvest fishery. The phase out of the gillnets is being funded by the Queensland government and informed by their taskforce.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you.</p>	
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67	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001355	Peter Whish-Wilson	Communication with Future Fishing taskforce	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: ... Could you also take on notice what communication the department's had with the Queensland government in reference to the Future Fishing Taskforce-</p> <p>Ms Parry: I will</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: and when that's expected to provide its final report? I don't know if you have any views, Minister, or, Mr Thomas.</p> <p>Senator McAllister: What I was really going to ask, Senator Whish-Wilson, was for a clarification because sometimes requests of that kind end up being quite large, actually, because they're so general in scope. Is there something in particular you want to know?</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Why don't I go away and perhaps define what communication means, if that's what you're worried about, Minister?</p> <p>Ms Parry: That would be helpful.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Or perhaps you could tell me how regularly you have communication with them.</p> <p>Ms Parry: We meet with the Queensland government regularly on a whole range of issues. But if there is something specific-</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: The Future Fishing Taskforce in particular-have you had any briefings with them? Is it an agenda item on your regular meetings? I can be more specific in writing, but, if you could actually get me an idea of when the taskforce is expected to provide its final report, that's probably the most useful-</p> <p>Senator McAllister: Mr Thomas has some relevant information.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Sure.</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I can come back to you with some more specifics, but the marine park authority has been engaged with the Future Fishing Taskforce in relation to the advice they're seeking to pull</p>	132
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					<p>together to better understand how to implement that net phase out through to 2027. We have been involved in that and we've provided some advice through that process.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you.</p>	
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68	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001356	Peter Whish-Wilson	Money spent on projects related to ocean temperatures	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Obviously we're in an El Nino year and we have concerns about ocean temperatures. The AIMS summary report was in April; is that correct, Mr Thomas? With the limited time we've got, will there be any other assessments done before February next year for the UNESCO report?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Dr Beeden will be better able to elaborate on this, but we're constantly tracking the state of the reef and temperatures on it and have obviously been concerned-</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes. You work with BOM on that presumably.</p> <p>Mr Thomas: We absolutely do, and with a range of other partners-AIMS, CSIRO-</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you give us a very quick update on what you know now?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I'll let Roger Beeden jump straight into that.</p> <p>Dr Beeden: We certainly work with the number of partners that Mr Thomas outlined. We have information coming in from surveys that we conduct, but also the AIMS long-term monitoring surveys and things like the COTs control program vessels that are out there all the time. At this point it's unlikely that before 1 February that we will have a specific report. We typically have a snapshot of what has happened in summer, and that's published around April. Then the AIMS long-term monitoring reports usually come in around August. The last one was published in August. However, we would be assembling the information that we've gathered over the summer and that would be able to be made available for the submission.</p> <p>Mr Thomas: We have rolling updates weekly. Roger will be in front of the camera every week.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: In relation to temperatures or coral health conditions?</p>	133 - 134
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69	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner	SQ23-001422	Malcolm Roberts	Eungella and Borumba Pumped hydro projects and Widgee powerlines	Please provide any updates in regards to the Eungella and Borumba Pumped hydro projects, and Widgee powerlines including total complaints received, and progression of them.	Written
70	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001521	Jonathon Duniam	Environment Information Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By what date will Environment Information Australia be established? 2. Please outline whether and how the projected costs over the forward estimates of establishing and operating Environment Information Australia have changed, since they were included as part of this year's Budget papers. 	Written
71	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001487	Hollie Hughes	AEMO ESOO Report and Eraring power station	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What advice has the Department provided the Government around the looming energy shortfall? 2. Has the department advised the government in any regard about the future life of coal fired power stations or gas fired power stations and peakers? What was this advice? 3. Did the Department provide advice regarding the extension of Eraring power station? 4. Would you agree though with the State Government's report that it is critical for the stability of the grid to extend the life of Eraring? 	Written

72	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001476	Hollie Hughes	Transmission Fires	<p>1. Under the Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) project, I understand you are making climate risk assessments on a variety of things including transmission infrastructure that could be damaged by wind speeds, and bushfires, is that correct?</p> <p>2. Can you please explain how those assessments inform on things related to transmission lines? Does that mean, for example, that based off those analyses, you might determine to place transmission in lines in different locations?</p> <p>3. What happens in instances of already existing transmission lines? How do you propose to manage those?</p> <p>4. Are you concerned about the risk of the lines themselves causing fires?</p> <p>5. What strategies are in place to mitigate the risk of bushfires caused by the thousands of kilometres of additional wiring?</p>	Written
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73	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001443	Hollie Hughes	Renewable Energy Policies	<p>1. Why and how has this government determined renewable wind and solar should account for the overwhelming and disproportionate focus of our net-zero transition, with regard to energy investment and generation?</p> <p>2. Doesn't it make more sense to invest in a diverse range of emissions reducing technologies and energy sources, to ensure an effective, efficient and orderly energy transition that reaches emissions targets, ensures businesses and industries don't go under, the economy is protected, and households don't bear the financial and physical burdens of this major paradigm shift in energy?</p> <p>3. Are we behind on our net-zero timetable? How do we compare with most other developed nations who have made similar pledges?</p> <p>4. If any, what other modelling or research is informing your policy formation? (Other than the largely defunct GenCost).</p> <p>5. Was the CSIRO modelling commissioned by the department or minister's office or was it conducted independently? If so, what prompted you to use this as a primary source of consideration for underwriting government policy?</p> <p>6. And these policies are flowing out of the minister's office? Or are they guided or suggested by DCCEEW to the minister's office? Or do they come from PMO?</p>	Written
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74	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001373	Dorinda Cox	Assessment of Northwest Shelf Extension	1. Will DCCEEW conduct an independent assessment of the Northwest Shelf extension, including a thorough investigation of the fact-base provided by Woodside Energy Ltd for the project?	Written
75	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001506	Jonathon Duniam	Woodside CEO, Meg O'Neill	<p>Has Ms Plibersek ever specifically sought formal advice from DCCEEW, or any other Department or agency, in relation to the events that transpired at the home of Woodside CEO, Meg O'Neill, in Perth in late July and early August 2023?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <p>(a) on what date(s) did she seek such advice?</p> <p>(b) on what date(s) was such advice provided to her?</p> <p>(c) by whom was such advice provided to her?</p>	Written

76	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001621	Sarah Hanson-Young	Cultural heritage impacts of Burrup hub	<p>1. As part of the assessment of the cultural heritage impacts of the North West Shelf extension, will the Commonwealth consider whether Free, Prior and informed Consent and other relevant principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights and Interests of Indigenous peoples have been met by the proponent? If not, why not? If so, how will these principles be considered in the assessment process and what criteria will be applied</p> <p>2. Can the Minister provide an overview of the cultural heritage impacts that are in scope of the current assessment of the North West Shelf extension? Does this include cultural heritage impacts of the gas field developments that are required to supply the North West Shelf into the future, for the life of the development? If not, why not? If so, what gas fields or reserves are being considered as part of this assessment?</p> <p>3. Does the Government consider that impacts to cultural heritage in the Kimberley as a result of development of the onshore Canning Basin to supply the North West Shelf facility are relevant considerations for assessment?</p> <p>4. What conditions for the protection of cultural heritage currently apply to the Commonwealth EPBC approval for the Pluto LNG facility?</p> <p>5. Does the Commonwealth agree with the recent advice of the State EPA, that the state cultural heritage conditions for the Pluto LNG facility are inadequate?</p> <p>6. Will the Commonwealth review the conditions on the Pluto LNG facility under the EPBC Act to ensure that cultural heritage impacts from the project are acceptable?</p> <p>7. Are the cultural heritage impacts of processing Scarborough gas at the Pluto LNG facility and using Scarborough gas at the Perdaman ammonia facility considered relevant indirect consequences within the scope of the NOPSEMA assessment of</p>	Written
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					<p>the Scarborough offshore gas development according to the EPBC indirect consequences policy and NOPSEMA's environment regulations? If not, why not? If so, when will they be assessed by NOPSEMA?</p>	
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77	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001473	Jane Hume	Current ASL	<p>1. Please provide the number of current ASL allocated to the department/agency as at 1 July 2023.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total number of ASL; b. Total number of FTE by APS classification; c. the number of ASL allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and d. the number of FTE, by classification, allocated to each outcome for which the department/agency is responsible; and e. The number of FTE positions that are not currently filled, broken down by classification. 	Written
78	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001445	Hollie Hughes	Wind and Solar	<p>1. Approximately how many wind farms and solar panels have been installed to date by this government? Are you able to break that down annually, monthly and/or daily?</p> <p>2. How do you anticipate to make-up the shortfall to reach our target?</p> <p>3. Are you expecting we'll meet our 2030 renewables goal?</p> <p>4. What are the implications of failing to meet the goal? Isn't it really an arbitrary ambition ultimately in real terms if we fall slightly short? Especially in lieu of China's more than 10 billion tonnes of annual CO2 emissions compared with Australia's 391 million tonnes.</p>	Written

79	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001618	Sarah Hanson-Young	Environmental implications of gas developments to feed Burrup Hub demand	<p>1. In relation to the North West Shelf Extension proposal, will the environmental impacts associated with the development of gas reserves needed to supply the demand created by the facility over its lifetime be considered under the EPBC indirect consequences policy, which states that Indirect consequences of an action may include (a) off-site impacts including, but not limited to (ii) upstream impacts (such as the extraction of raw materials which are used to undertake the action).?</p> <p>2. Are the environmental impacts of developing these reserves, including those in Commonwealth waters, being considered by the State EPA assessment process for the North West Shelf Extension project, or will these be considered separately by the Commonwealth Department? If the latter, when will this occur?</p>	Written
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80	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001629	Sarah Hanson-Young	Offsets in WA involving conservation payments	<p>The following is a list of EPBC approval conditions which involved a payment to the relevant WA authority to obtain an offset. For each of these conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the offset been acquired? b. What is the location/s of the offset (Lot/Plan)? c. How is the offset protected? d. What is the size of the offset (in hectares)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EPBC 2008/4028 - Condition 7 2. EPBC 2008/4250 - Condition 17 3. EPBC 2008/4601 - Conditions 8a and 8b 4. EPBC 2008/4638 - Condition 8 5. EPBC 2008/4676 - Conditions 6.1 and 6.2 6. EPBC 2009/4789 - Condition 6 7. EPBC 2009/4796 - Condition 4c 8. EPBC 2009/5231 - Condition 6 9. EPBC 2010/5476 - Conditions 6 and 7 10. EPBC 2010/5614 - Condition 11 11. EPBC 2010/5636 - Condition 4 12. EPBC 2010/5693 - Condition 2 13. EPBC 2010/5733 - Condition 3 14. EPBC 2010/5785 - Condition 4a 15. EPBC 2011/5902 - Condition 13 16. EPBC 2011/5928 - Condition 2 17. EPBC 2011/6137 - Condition 3c 	Written
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81	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001630	Sarah Hanson-Young	Offsets in Victoria involving the transport department	<p>The following is a list of EPBC approval offset or land-based conditions. For each of these conditions:</p> <p>A. What is the location of the land (Lot/Plan) relevant to the condition?</p> <p>B. How is the land currently legally protected?</p> <p>C. When was the protection executed?</p> <p>D. What area is protected (in hectares)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EPBC 2007/3755 - Conditions 4e and 6a 2. EPBC 2009/4856 - Conditions 4 and 5 3. EPBC 2010/5463 - Condition 1b 4. EPBC 2010/5313 - Conditions 12 and 14 5. EPBC 2011/6015 - Conditions 1 and 3 	Written
82	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001627	Sarah Hanson-Young	Non-compliance at Anglo American's Grosvenor coal mine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the variation of EPBC 2007/3785 (Anglo American's Grosvenor coal mine) on 30 September 2021 made pursuant to s 143(1)(a) of the EPBC Act? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no, which subsection was relied upon by the decision maker? b. If yes, what condition/s attached to the approval were contravened? 2. Anglo American notes in its compliance report for the 2020/21 period that it sought the Department's feedback on the report prior to publishing. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What feedback was sought by Anglo American on the draft report? b. Please summarise the Department's feedback to Anglo American. c. Why does the report not mention non-compliance with any conditions, given the company self-reported a 'compliance matter' to the Department relating to that period? (see SQ22-000722, November 2022) 	Written

					<p>3. Please summarise the 'compliance matter' that Anglo American self-reported to the Department.</p> <p>a. Which condition/s in the approval did it relate to?</p> <p>b. Did the 'compliance matter' involve impacts on species protected under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>c. What was the size, in hectares, of the disturbance (if any) reported to the Department?</p>	
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83	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001533	Jonathon Duniam	Departmental training relating to Indigenous issues	<p>1. Since the establishment of the Department, have any training sessions or workshops been run within the Department on Indigenous issues? If so:</p> <p>(a) What have been the subject areas covered in these sessions?</p> <p>(b) For whom have these sessions or workshops each been run – and roughly how many people, in total, attended them?</p> <p>(c) How many ASL hours collectively have been spent at the training?</p> <p>(d) Who has been engaged to provide this training? And, for any external individuals and organisations that have been engaged, what has been the total cost of hiring them?</p> <p>(e) Is further training on Indigenous issues scheduled in the future – and, if so, when and on what matters?</p> <p>2. Have training sessions or workshops or the like been run on matters relating to the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum? If so:</p> <p>(a) how many sessions or workshops have been run?</p> <p>(b) how many people in total attended?</p> <p>(c) what was the objective of them?</p> <p>(d) was this training on the Voice referendum heavily promoted across the Department?</p>	Written
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					<p>(e) were staff strongly encouraged to attend, in any way? Alternatively, was it mandatory for some or all staff to attend?</p> <p>(f) who has been engaged to provide such training and/or workshops? And, for any external individuals and organisations that have been engaged, what has been the total cost of hiring them?</p> <p>(g) is it true that the relative of an existing staff member was engaged to undertake some or all of the training?</p> <p>(h) can the Department guarantee that it is not the case that, in at least one of these sessions, attendees were encouraged to involve themselves in the 'Yes' campaign for the referendum?</p> <p>(i) did a part of the content of the training and/or workshops focus on what a 'Yes' result in the referendum would mean for the Department's future work and activities?</p> <p>3. In the Statement of Commitment in the DCCEEW Annual Report for 2022-23, it says that "in the lead up to the Voice Referendum, we will support staff understanding of the Voice by providing factual information, uphold our obligations to work with impartiality, and ensure a culturally safe and inclusive workplace for all employees". In addition to any training sessions or workshops conducted within the Department, what were each of the other forms of support and activity that were provided to DCCEEW staff in the lead up to the Voice referendum?</p>	
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84	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001535	James McGrath	Gillnet fishing ban	<p>On 13 September, Senator McGrath wrote to Minister Plibersek relating to her 5 June 2023 announcement that gillnet fishing would be phased out by mid-2027. In the response from Belinda Jago, representing Minister Plibersek, Mrs Jago stated that "the Australian Government is not funding or coordinating the phase out of gill nets. This is being led by the Queensland Government and will be implemented under the Fisheries Act 1994 (Qld). An independent taskforce, established by the Queensland Government is informing the phase out and structural adjustment." However, the 5 June 2023 announcement states "the Albanese and Palaszczuk Labor Governments have announced critical funding to better protect threatened species that call the Great Barrier Reef home. Over \$160 million will be delivered to significantly reduce net fishing and other high risk fishing activities impacting the Reef. This includes ensuring the Great Barrier Reef is gillnet free by mid-2027. Destructive gillnet fishing injures and kills threatened dugongs, turtles, dolphins and protected shark species."</p> <p>Question 1: Is the Federal Labor Government funding the phase out of the gillnet fishing ban and if so, how much?</p> <p>Question 2: Can you breakdown what portion of this \$160 million is going to be funded by the Federal Government and what portion is being funded by the Queensland Government?</p> <p>Question 3: Please detail how the portion of the \$160 million being funded by the Federal Government is being spent and over what period of time.</p> <p>Question 4: Please list the Federal Government's roles and</p>	Written
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				<p>responsibilities relating to the removal of gillnets in the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Question 5: Please detail all consultations held with relevant fishing industry groups prior to this announcement on 5 June 2023.</p> <p>Question 6: Please detail the number of fishers consulted on the proposed policy to phase out gillnet fishing ban prior to 5 June 2023.</p> <p>Question 7: Please detail if the Department of Environment is aware of any consultation between either the Federal Government or the Queensland Government and the Queensland Seafood Industry Association on the policy to phase out gillnet fishing prior to 5 June 2023.</p> <p>Question 8: Please provide copies of the consultation summary reports from each of the consultations held prior to the implementation of the gillnet fishing ban.</p> <p>Question 9: Please provide any documents relating to the economic assessment behind the gillnet fishing ban and the impact on fishers.</p> <p>Question 10: Please provide the environmental documentation used by the Department leading to conclusion that "destructive gillnet fishing injures and kills threatened dugongs, turtles, dolphins and protected shark species."</p> <p>Question 11: Please provide a copy of the regulatory impact</p>	
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					<p>statement of the gillnet fishing ban.</p> <p>Question 12: Please table all correspondence between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Environment relating to the proposal to implement a gillnet fishing ban.</p> <p>Question 13: Please table all correspondence relating to stakeholders and consumers that were consulted on this proposed ban prior to the June 5 press release by Minister Plibersek titled Joint media release: Tackling the risks to the reef.</p>	
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85	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001369	Larissa Waters	Bioregional planning	<p>In Dec 2022, the Commonwealth and Qld governments announced that three pilot bioregional plans would be developed, including one on urban development in SEQ, one renewable energy region, and one for critical minerals (https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96756).</p> <p>? What is the status of these plans? Who is being consulted in their development?</p> <p>? One purpose of bioregional plans is to undertake a more strategic approach to development - including identifying areas with the least environmental and cultural impact. Will consideration of any current projects be deferred while the bioregional plans are developed that could identify more suitable locations?</p> <p>? What are the current data gaps that need to be addressed to inform the proposed bioregional planning exercise?</p>	Written
86	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001409	Ross Cadell	Eraring Power Station	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of any correspondence between DCCEE and the NSW Government or its agencies regarding the extension of the operational life of the Eraring Power Station? Please table this correspondence. 2. How can the extension of the Eraring Power Station be reconciled with the Net Zero 2050 plan? 3. Has DCCEE undertaken any modelling of the impact of the 	Written

					extension of the Eraring Power Station on the Net Zero 2050 plan? If so, please table this modelling?	
87	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001421	Jane Hume	Executive offices	<p>1. Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's/agency head's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries/executive leadership team members, upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide photographs of the works conducted.</p>	Written
88	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001427	Jane Hume	Media monitoring	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on media monitoring services in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written
89	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001631	Sarah Hanson-Young	Mines in WA national reserves which were funded by the Commonwealth	<p>1. What is the approved footprint of disturbance for the Karara Magnetite Mine approval (EPBC 2006/3017)? In other words, what was footprint of the action which was referred? (Please provide a figure in hectares)</p> <p>2. What is the current footprint of the Karara Magnetite Mine approval (EPBC 2006/3017)? (Please provide a figure in hectares)</p> <p>3. Has the proponent of the Blue Hills Iron Ore project (EPBC 2007/3809) provided the Department a plan for the alternative protection of malleefowl habitat pursuant to condition 1?</p>	Written

90	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001470	Jonathon Duniam	Independent Contractors	<p>1. Does your Department/agency work with independent contractors, in addition to your use of direct employment and labour hire?</p> <p>a. If so, what is the Department's/agency's assessment of the full impact of the proposed changes in Part 15 of Sch 1 of the Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023?</p>	Written
91	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001469	Jonathon Duniam	Secure Australian Jobs Plan	<p>1. What will be the additional cost to the Department/agency of discontinuing the use of labour hire, in favour of direct employment as public servants?</p> <p>a. Please provide a breakdown of how you calculate such costs, including additional recruitment and selection costs, additional payroll costs, additional legal and advisory costs, and the like.</p>	Written

92	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001467	Jonathon Duniam	Same Job Same Pay	<p>1. Does your Department/agency insist that, as a term of entering into a contract with a labour hire provider, it pay their staff at the pay rates applicable under your public sector / government employment enterprise agreement whilst posted at your workplaces?</p> <p>2. Where your Department/agency provides funding to other bodies or offers tenders for funded work to be undertaken for government by non-public sector organisations, such as private or charitable providers – and the work undertaken would fall within a public sector wage classification or a classification under your enterprise agreement were it undertaken by government:</p> <p>a. Do you require those organisations to pay wage rates that would apply under public sector agreements were the work undertaken directly by government or as government employment?</p> <p>b. If not, why not?</p> <p>c. Do you provide adequate funding to those doing funded work for government to pay Commonwealth public sector wage rates to their staff whilst undertaking government funded projects? If not, why not?</p> <p>3. Does your organisation ever pay employees working alongside each other, undertaking the same work at different rates?</p> <p>4. Does your organisation's enterprise agreement include</p>	Written
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					different wage rates based on seniority, tenure, or annual increments?	
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93	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001466	Jonathon Duniam	Labour Hire – Costs of Direct Employment:	<p>1. What would be the additional costs to your organisation of moving existing labour hire staff into direct employment or of ensuring that labour hire staff are paid not less than the rates applicable to direct employment with your Department/agency?</p> <p>a. Does the Department/agency monitor how long agency staff are placed to work at your sites and/or with your staff?</p> <p>b. Is there some trigger point or timeframe after which work that is outsourced to labour hire agencies is, or should be, examined with a view to moving to direct engagement?</p>	Written
94	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001465	Jonathon Duniam	Labour Hire – Ministerial Direction	<p>1. Has there been any direction or instruction from any of your Ministers, or from the Public Service Commission, to pay labour hire agency staff working in your organisation at rates not less than those to which they would have been entitled had they been directly employed by your organisation?</p> <p>2. Has implementing the Government's same job, same policy for labour hire staff been raised with you by any of your Ministers or through central agencies such as the Public Service Commission?</p> <p>3. Have you been given instructions or a time frame for ensuring labour hire staff working with government are paid the same as comparable government employees?</p> <p>4. Are you planning to change how you use labour hire services in your organisation to implement same job, same pay? As a model employer, is it incumbent on Departments/agencies such as yours</p>	Written

					to implement what the Government sees as good employment practices in advance of their inclusion in the Fair Work Act?	
95	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001464	Jonathon Duniam	Labour Hire	<p>1. What plans does your Department have to offer direct employment to all labour hire staff working on your work sites or providing services on your behalf? What timeframe have you set for making such an offer?</p> <p>2. How many labour hire employees, employed by labour hire providers rather than directly by the Department, have worked in your organisation's workplaces or with your directly hired staff during the past 12 months?</p> <p>3. Do you require labour hire providers to comply with the Government's same job, same pay policy in relation to employees working in or with the Department, or on Departmental work?</p>	Written

					4. Do you require labour hire providers to pay their employees at wage rates equivalent to the rate in public sector enterprise agreements applicable to your Department?	
96	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001462	Jonathon Duniam	Casuals - Costs	<p>1. What will the additional costs be to the Department/agency of moving to a permanent workforce, and of ending or significantly reducing the use of casual employment in line with government policy?</p> <p>2. Can you please provide a breakdown of how you calculate such costs, including additional recruitment and selection costs, additional payroll costs, additional legal and advisory costs, and any further costs.</p> <p>3. What will it cost the agency to implement the additional process for casual conversion provided for in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023?</p> <p>a. Specifically, do you know the costs to your organisation of having to administer two separate casual conversion provisions, one available to employees after six months, and another in</p>	Written

					which conversion offers must be made to employees after 12 months?	
97	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001461	Jonathon Duniam	Casual conversion - Refusals	<p>1. Has your Department/agency ever refused or not offered ongoing employment to a casual employee who wants such an arrangement?</p> <p>a. On what basis?</p> <p>b. Are all casual employees working with the Department who would like ongoing work offered such work?</p> <p>c. On what basis would this not occur?</p>	Written

98	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001460	Jonathon Duniam	Casual Conversion	<p>1. Can you clarify whether, when a casual employee completes 12 months working for the Department/agency with a regular pattern of hours, they are offered the option to convert to full-time or part-time (permanent) employment in the public service, or whether they are required to go through a merit selection process to secure a permanent position?</p> <p>2. Can you please indicate any steps the Department/agency is taking to offer conversion to ongoing public service positions after 6 months working as a casual, consistent with the Government's preferred approach to conversion contained in its Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bil 2023?</p> <p>3. Has your Department/agency committed to offering conversion to all casual employees with between 6 and 12 months service on a regular basis, consistent with Government policy on casual employment, regardless of the passage of the Fair Work Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023?</p> <p>4. Have you set date(s) for implementing and applying the approach the Government thinks is appropriate to casual employment in the private sector to its own staff?</p>	Written
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99	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001459	Jonathon Duniam	Casual Hiring Decisions	<p>(If the Department/agency engages casual employees, please answer the questions below. If it does not engage casual employees, then these answers should each be marked as "Not Applicable".)</p> <p>1. Considering the Government's Secure Australian Jobs Plan policy, and its commitment to "Ensure a Labor government is a model employer by creating more secure employment in the Australian Public Service", why are casual employees employed in preference to creating additional ongoing full or part time jobs with your organisation?</p> <p>2. Can you please indicate the process your Department/agency uses to determine whether particular work will be undertaken by hiring additional ongoing staff, or by either casual employees or labour hire agency staff?</p> <p>3. Can you provide the Committee with a copy of any decision making criteria, matrix or process you use to determine whether an additional permanent job will be created, or whether casual employment or labour hire agency work will be used?</p> <p>a. Is this decision-making process (on ongoing employment versus casual or labour hire jobs) recorded, is it subject to public sector standards and oversight, is it open to FOI, and is there any Public Service Commission oversight or direction?</p> <p>b. When you have work to be done, do you start with a presumption that the organisation will hire additional permanent staff, and then only use labour hire or employee casuals on an exceptional basis?</p>	Written
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					<p>c. On what basis would your organisation create a casual job, or have work done through labour hire rather than through direct employment?</p> <p>d. What would the advantages be to the organisation of casual or labour hire arrangements, in preference to / rather than direct, ongoing employment?</p> <p>4. If your Department/agency does not employ casual employees directly, do casual employees employed by other organisations provide government services on your behalf? If so, what are these services?</p> <p>a. Do you know the basis on which all those who provide services to or on behalf of your agency are employed? Do you require businesses providing services on behalf of your Department/agency, or contracting to your Department/agency, to provide you with information only that employ they staff on ongoing or casual contracts – or more detailed advice?</p> <p>b. Can you provide a breakdown of the use of casual employment for always providing services to or working with your department on this basis, but your casuals that you employ directly, and the casual staff of others who are providing your services or providing you with services? If there is detail to this effect, please provide a breakdown of the use of casual employment by your Department/agency on this basis.</p>	
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100	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001455	Jonathon Duniam	Casual Jobs – Regularity	<p>1. Do your casual employees ever work on a regular and predictable basis, such as being rostered? Or is their work solely ad hoc and intermittent?</p> <p>a. Do you ever set periods in which casual employment will occur, such as putting people on casual rosters for potential work during the next X months?</p> <p>b. Are those periods ever extended, or further periods notified?</p>	Written
101	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001453	Jonathon Duniam	Casual Jobs – Duration	<p>1. In respect of all casual employees employed during the past two years, what is the distribution, broken down on a decile basis (including the median), of the duration of all casual employment with the Department/agency?</p> <p>By duration, I refer to the period between an employee's first casual shift with the agency/department/organisation and either their final shift as a casual, or their most recent shift, with the Department/agency.</p> <p>2. Based on that data, could you please indicate both in numbers and as percentages of the organisation's total casual staff, how many casual employees have been employed for:</p> <p>(i) less than 6 months; (ii) 6-12 months; and (iii) more than 12 months.</p>	Written

102	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001450	Jonathon Duniam	Casuals – Number	<p>1. How many casual employees in total has your Department/agency employed across the past 12 months?</p> <p>a. Based on this, what percentage of your overall staff work as casuals?</p> <p>b. Could you provide this information both as a percentage of persons (headcount), and of FTEs (total hours worked).</p>	Written
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103	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001448	Jonathon Duniam	Costings for the Department	<p>1. In relation to the Government's Closing Loopholes industrial relations Bill:</p> <p>a. Was DCCEEW asked to consider the impact of the Bill on the Department, your employment and use of labour hire and contracting services?</p> <p>b. Were you invited to provide input on the Bill, and its potential impact on your services and operations prior to its introduction to parliament?</p> <p>c. What cost impact assessment have you undertaken or considered of the impact of these proposed amendments on your organisation?</p> <p>2. Do you know what the cost impact will be of the changes in the Closing Loopholes legislation on the Department?</p> <p>3. What measures does your organisation take to ensure you comply with your industrial relations and wages obligations, including under enterprise agreements which apply to your organisation?</p> <p>4. Given that the Closing Loopholes Bill prescribes that that there will be new wage theft liabilities for government agencies departments and organisations, including criminal penalties:</p> <p>a. Do you intend to do anything else to ensure your compliance with your pay obligations in light of these new penalties? If so, what measures will you pursue, how much will they cost and</p>	Written
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					<p>when will they be implemented?</p> <p>b. Do you think you can be 100% certain that you comply with all your time and wages obligations to your employees, or do you consider there are always risks associated with payments in organisations such as yours?</p>	
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104	Director of National Parks	SQ23-001602	Peter Whish-Wilson	Marine Parks	<p>The Department of Defence made a submission to the SE Marine Park consultation:</p> <p>Defence highly values its right to train and operate freely across the South-east Marine Parks Network in order to discharge its national security and emergency response obligations. This access, provided for in Section 5.11 and Table 5.10 of the Plan , has worked well for Defence. Defence welcomes continued engagement to ensure measures that could compromise operations, such as flight restrictions for military aircraft over reserves are appropriately considered.</p> <p>1. How is current submarine use accounted for under the EBPC Act?</p> <p>2. If the DOD undertakes a planned military exercise that may impact a marine park, what notification and details are they required to provide?</p> <p>3. How would the use of nuclear-powered submarines be considered in the context of marine-park management and the EPBC Act?</p>	Written
105	Australian Institute of Marine Science	SQ23-001579	Jonathon Duniam	Declines in species populations	In relation to marine life in and around the Great Barrier Reef region, is AIMS aware of any data that shows noticeable declines in particular species' populations over recent months and years?	Written
106	Director of National Parks	SQ23-001570	Jonathon Duniam	Macquarie Island Marine Park - financial impact	Are you (Director of National Parks) aware of the extent of the financial and job losses that are now being sustained by the two (highly environmentally responsible) fishing companies that were directly impacted by the decision to increase the size of the Macquarie Island Marine Park?	Written

107	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001539	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental risks and dangers of renewable energy projects	<p>1. What specific considerations are made and steps taken under the Albanese Government, and as part of EPBC Act assessments, to ensure that renewable energy projects will not create adverse impacts in relation to habitat endangerment or destruction?</p> <p>2. Has Minister Plibersek ever asked the Department to provide her with advice on the environmental risks and dangers of renewable energy projects – and, if so, when?</p>	Written
108	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001537	Jonathon Duniam	Assessment processes	<p>Ms Plibersek said, in a tweet on 10 April 2023, that "clean energy projects are being approved at twice the rate of previous years after federal action to speed up decisions in the hope of adding more wind farms and solar projects to the electricity grid". What specific, practical changes has the Albanese Government made to assessment processes to speed up approvals of renewables projects?</p>	Written
109	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001536	Jonathon Duniam	Approvals timings	<p>1. Since the Albanese Govt was elected, what is the average time, under the EPBC Act, for approval of renewable energy projects?</p> <p>2. Since the Albanese Govt was elected, what is the average time, under the EPBC Act, for approval of non-renewable energy projects?</p> <p>3. What percentage of renewable energy project decisions have been made on-time for each of the quarters between Quarter 2, 2020 and Quarter 3, 2023 inclusive?</p> <p>4. What percentage of non-renewable energy project decisions have been made on-time for each of the quarters between Quarter 2, 2020 and Quarter 3, 2023 inclusive?</p>	Written

110	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001531	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous Advisory Committee	What specific, practical changes have been made to the role of the Indigenous Advisory Committee during 2023?	Written
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111	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001378	Nick McKim	Lake Malbena	<p>1. What is the status of the EPBC controlled action assessment for the Halls Island Standing Camp, Lake Malbena, Tasmania?</p> <p>2. When will the final decision be made?</p> <p>3. Has the department provided advice to the Minister about whether this decision be made by the Minister or by a delegate?</p> <p>4. The EPBC Act gives the Minister the option of publishing the draft decision for public comment prior to finalisation. Has the Minister made a decision yet about whether or not to publish a draft decision for comment?</p> <p>a. Has the department provided any advice to the Minister about that?</p> <p>5. In May, this committee was told that the proponent received a total of 5306 public comments as part of this process. Is that number still correct?</p> <p>6. Has the department taken steps to satisfy itself that 5306 is actually the number of submissions that the proponent received? (Last estimates, in May 2023, the response to this question by the Department was that it was too early as the material had only been received 'fairly recently'.)</p> <p>7. The proponent summary stated that, "Of the 626 comments received, approximately 200 were pro-forma comments. Many dozens, if not hundreds of additional submissions represent longer submissions that were also re-submitted in cut-and- pasted form as multiple short paragraphs."1 ... According to the Department, 5306 comments were received.</p> <p>a. Has the Department made a determination about whether it believes the proponent has met the statutory requirements for public consultation?</p> <p>i. If yes, what were the results of that determination?</p> <p>ii. If not, when will this take place?</p>	Written
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					<p>b. Does the Department have a view about whether or not the description of 5306 comments as being 626 comments, with some pro formas, constitutes a misrepresentation of the facts?</p> <p>8. When a proponent is required to invite and manage public comment on their assessment documentation, how does the Department determine if the proponent's chosen process for inviting and managing public comment has met statutory requirements?</p> <p>a. If a proponent were to misrepresent the number of submissions received during the invitation and management of public comment on their assessment documentation, or withhold submissions received, could they still be found to have met the statutory requirements?</p>	
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112	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001371	Larissa Waters	Fraser Coast Regional Council development application for a large fertiliser plant within High Ecological Significant (HES) Wetlands	? Has this project been referred for assessment under EPBC given potential impacts on endangered species? ? Was Commonwealth approval sought by the QLD state government or Fraser Council? ? Will the Minister consider calling this project in?	Written
113	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001370	Larissa Waters	Chalumbin (Wooroora) Wind Farm development	The project has recently been reduced from 86 to 42 wind turbines, and has been renamed from Chalumbin Wind Farm to Wooroora Station Wind Farm. The decision on the variation is due on 29th October 2023. 1.Can you provide an update on the progress of the assessment of this project? 2.The proposed wind turbine development in its amended form still contains substantial areas of Remnant Vegetation and it is in the catchment area of the Great Barrier Reef. How will the government prevent damage to remnant vegetation, waterways and native threatened species from occurring?	Written
114	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001471	Jane Hume	Minister office request for data/information by electorate	Since 1 July 2023, has the department / agency ever received a request from a portfolio minister's office seeking data or information separated out by electorate? a. Please provide a list of all requests, including any timeframe provided for a response, whether a response was provided, and	Written

					<p>the context of the request if provided.</p> <p>b. Please provide a copy of all responses to the request.</p>	
115	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001619	Sarah Hanson-Young	Missing parks	<p>1. How much Commonwealth financial support was given, loaned, invested or otherwise transferred for the purpose of purchasing and/or protecting of the following six properties: Redcliffe Vale (National Reserve System) (Lot 1/CP866146, Lonesome Holding (National Reserve System) (Lot 2/SP313789), Oak Hills (Lots 2 and 3 on SP301977), Humpybong (also known as Herveyside) (Lot 1/USL44328), Turkey Station (Lot 6 on plan SP297211 and Lot 28 on plan SP105082), and Mount Adder (Lot 3/SP296671)?</p> <p>a. Through what instrument(s) was that funding provided?</p> <p>b. For each property, by which date was it required to be legally protected for the purposes of conservation?</p> <p>c. For each property, did a management plan or guideline apply which would prevent development on the property (such as logging or mining)?</p>	Written

116	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001412	Malcolm Roberts	Wind turbines and koalas	<p>1. This Labor government plays games with its stated priorities. Is it sensitive to conservation issues or not?</p> <p>2. In its desperate attempts to virtue signal to the world that it is a conservation, climate saving giant, it is hell -bent on covering the landscape with expensive and inefficient wind turbines, and damn the consequences.</p> <p>Minister Plibersek has publicly said that she wishes to be the one to save endangered species, including the koala bear.</p> <p>Why has the Minister approved a giant wind turbine development at Lotus Creek in Central Queensland, previously rejected as unacceptable because it would involve bulldozing 341 ha of known old growth forest koala habitat?</p> <p>3. Is Minister Plibersek acting to deliberately hasten the extinction of koalas?</p> <p>4. Will Minister Plibersek approve the destruction of another 844ha of koala habitat at Chalumbin on the Atherton Tableland, in the middle of a tropical forest?</p> <p>5. Is it true that this destruction would be by the same developer, Korean Zinc?</p> <p>6. Is it true that there is now more than 100 sq km of koala habitat under threat to developers of these destructive wind turbine projects, all in the name of renewable energy at the cost of the environment and extinction of rare wildlife.</p>	Written
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					7. Is this not an obscene double standard?	
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117	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001577	Ralph Babet	Offshore Wind	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total cost of the project for a given area? For example the Port Stephens area off the NSW Coast? 2. How many turbines are proposed in total for this area? 3. Have you done any impact studies or do you propose to undertake any on the effect on marine and bird life in the areas in which you plan to install offshore turbines? 4. If not, what is the plan regarding scheduling these studies and allowing appropriate community consultation, participation and feedback? 5. Please provide a copy of any studies to date regarding environmental impacts in Australian waters. 6. What other feasibility studies have been completed to date? Please provide a copy of all studies undertaken by the department in relation to offshore wind turbines and their connection to the grid. 7. Has the department undertaken effective consultation with the relevant communities? 8. Please provide a complete consultation outcomes report. If this is not available now, when will it be available for inspection? 9. Can a community provide feedback to the department after the consultation period has ended? 10. Have any offshore wind proponents expressed interest in a feasibility licence? 11. What is the merit criteria that must be address before the Minister grants feasibility licences to successful proponents? 12. What are the conditions of a feasibility licence that lasts for 7 years? 	Written
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118	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001557	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - question relating to SQ23-001269	<p>1. Particularly given Ms Plibersek's central involvement in the public announcement of the gillnets ban; the Federal Government's financial contribution to compensation arrangements for affected fishers; and Ms Plibersek's correspondence on 25 May 2023 to UNESCO: can the Department now directly answer question 4(a) of Question on Notice SQ23-001269 (linked)?</p> <p>2. In relation to question 4(b) of Question on Notice SQ23-001269 (linked), is Minister Plibersek aware of Mr Tobin's comments – and, if so, does she agree that his observations are correct? If not, on what basis does she disagree with his comments?</p>	Written
119	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001555	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - Compensation	<p>1. At the end of October 2023, there remains widespread uncertainty and confusion among Queensland commercial fishers about how compensation for the decision will be issued and when. By what date will either the Queensland or Federal Government provide final information about how compensation payments will be issued, and how much they will be worth in each case?</p> <p>2. Why has it taken so long to decide upon the arrangements for, let alone to deliver, the compensation?</p> <p>3. Why were full details of the compensation not even available before the completion of the barramundi fishing season at the end of October 2023?</p> <p>4. Does the Department, and does the Federal Government, acknowledge that the failure to provide full details of the compensation package even by the end of the barramundi season has created substantial added anxiety about their future livelihoods for many Queensland fishers?</p> <p>5. Why were the details about the compensation payments not</p>	Written

					<p>ready at the time of the public announcement of the gillnets ban on 5 June 2023?</p> <p>6. What were the reasons that the Federal and Queensland governments did not wait to make the announcement of the gillnets ban until after the compensation arrangements were finalised?</p>	
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120	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001549	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - questions relating to SQ23-001269	<p>The answers to Question on Notice SQ23-001269, from the previous round of Estimates, suggest that, in relation to issues associated with the imposition of gillnet bans in Queensland, "the Queensland Government is responsible for the management, regulation and enforcement of fisheries in State waters" and imply that the Federal Government is not responsible for these matters. Given those answers:</p> <p>(a) Why did Ms Plibersek and Senator Green participate in the issuing of a joint media release on 5 June 2023 with the Queensland Government that related, very specifically, to the banning of gillnets?</p> <p>(b) Why is the Queensland Government not solely responsible for providing the funding for the compensation payments announced as a part of this decision?</p> <p>(c) Why was the following paragraph included in a letter of 25 May 2023 to Ms Audrey Azoulay signed only by Ms Plibersek, rather than by the relevant Queensland Minister(s) or even at least co-signed by the relevant Queensland Minister(s)?</p>	Written
121	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001548	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - N2 and N4 fishing nets	<p>What are the very specific reasons that the Federal and Queensland governments announced, on 5 June 2023, that they were banning the use of N2 and N4 fishing nets in parts of Queensland and, most specifically, in the Great Barrier Reef region?</p>	Written

122	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001392	Ross Cadell	Recycling Modernisation Fund	<p>1. What impact is the impending regulation of paper and cardboard on 1 July 2024 likely to have on enterprises? Has the department undertaken any modelling or forecasting to look at these impacts? Please table.</p> <p>2. Does the department anticipate this will have a more substantial impact on enterprises than the previous rounds of export regulations? What impacts does the department foresee as a result of this regulation being implemented?</p> <p>3. Please advise whether Australia's current domestic processing capacity is sufficient to support DCCEEW's export regulations?</p> <p>4. Which materials are likely to have a shortfall of domestic processing capacity? Where is this shortfall most critical?</p> <p>5. Which states and territories lack sufficient domestic processing capacity? Where is this capacity gap most severe?</p> <p>6. What can be done to ameliorate the impact of export regulations on the recycling industry?</p>	Written
123	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001622	Sarah Hanson-Young	Register of environmental organisations	<p>1 How many applications for inclusion in the REO have been received since May 2022?</p> <p>2 How many applications are currently waiting for approval by the Environment Minister?</p> <p>3 What is the average waiting time for approval? Why is it taking so long?</p> <p>4 Responsibility for administering the REO is due to transfer to the ATO from 1 January 2024. Are arrangements on track for that transfer?</p> <p>5 Is DCCEEW working to clear the current backlog of applications before the transfer date? Can organisations whose applications are not determined before 31 December 2023 expect even longer delays as the ATO gets across the material provided by DCCEEW?</p>	Written

124	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001588	Peter Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef – Water Quality	<p>In September 2023, the World Heritage Committee agreed to adopt the draft decision proposed by UNESCO to not consider the Great Barrier Reef for the list of World Heritage In Danger.</p> <p>As part of the decision, the Australian and Queensland Governments have to report on the implementation of commitments made to the World Heritage Committee by 1st February 2024.</p> <p>1. Acknowledging meeting the commitments is the responsibility of both the Australian and Queensland Governments, how does the Australian Government intend to achieve meeting the World Heritage Committee recommendations? In particular, how will the Australian Government meet the requirement to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, protect remnant native vegetation in Reef catchment areas, and meet water quality improvement targets in order to protect the Great Barrier Reef?</p> <p>2. When were the WQIP water quality targets last updated?</p> <p>3. Please give an update on progress towards the following water quality targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 25% reduction in anthropogenic end of catchment fine sediment loads b. 60% reduction in anthropogenic end of catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads c. 20% reduction in anthropogenic end of catchment particulate nutrient loads d. What is the estimated cost required to manage and resolve the 	Written
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					<p>water quality problems for the Great Barrier Reef up to 2030?</p> <p>e. How much money has been allocated and/or pledged for managing water quality by the Labor Government for over the same period?</p> <p>f. When is the next Reef Report Card due to be released?</p> <p>g. A recent scientific report suggested that underground sources are responsible for a previously undocumented level of pollution flowing into the Great Barrier Reef. How does this data affect the WQIP targets?</p> <p>h. How do the WQIP targets account for the levels of pollution detailed in the scientific report?</p>	
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125	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001585	Peter Whish-Wilson	Gillnets	<p>1. How is DCCEEW monitoring the expenditure of the \$160 million in terms of phasing out gillnets?</p> <p>2. What communication has DCCEEW had with the Queensland Government in reference to the Future Fishing Taskforce? When is the taskforce expected to provide its final report?</p>	Written
126	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001559	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - proximity to the Great Barrier Reef	In relation to the use of the soon-to-be-banned gillnets around the area, how far from the Great Barrier Reef itself did the closest of these gillnets ever come?	Written
127	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001558	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - Economic and social impact modelling	<p>1. Is it the case that no modelling on the economic and social impacts of the imposition of the gillnets bans was undertaken or sought by the Federal Government before Ms Plibersek and Senator Green agreed to the bans?</p> <p>2. Alternatively, if such modelling was undertaken or sought, what did it show – and where can the Australian public view this information?</p>	Written
128	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001554	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - economic and social impact	Before the decision was taken, was any modelling undertaken by or for the Department about the wider economic and social upheaval the (gillnet) bans would cause? If so, what did it show?	Written
129	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001553	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - seafood market impact	About how many tonnes of wild-caught fish will disappear from the market once these (gillnet) bans take full effect – and what is the Federal Government's assessment of what the impact will be on the price of seafood in Queensland and Australia?	Written

130	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001552	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - business closures/job loss	<p>1. At the time this decision on the gillnet bans was made, what was the Federal Government's advice about how many jobs would be lost, and how many businesses would close, as a consequence?</p> <p>2. What is the Federal Government's latest advice about how many jobs will be lost, and how many businesses will close, as a consequence of this decision?</p> <p>3. Exactly how many licensed fishers will suffer significantly reduced incomes and/or be forced out of business altogether as a result of the bans?</p>	Written
131	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001550	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - changes to regulations and legislation	<p>1. Will any Federal regulation(s) be altered to give effect to the gillnet bans? If so, which part of which regulation(s) will be changed – and by what date will this need to occur?</p> <p>2. Will any Federal legislation be altered to give effect to the gillnet bans? If so, which part of which Act(s) will be changed – and by what date will it need to be occur?</p>	Written

132	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001456	Hollie Hughes	Methane Emissions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given that Australia has signed the Accelerating Methane Mitigation statement along with the Republic of Korea, the EU, the US, and Japan, what are Australia's targets when it comes to the reduction of methane emissions? What strategies are in place to achieve this? 2. How confident are you in the accuracy of methane emissions reporting under the NGER act? 3. How much methane did Australia emit in the last year or last recorded year? 4. According to the International Energy Agency, methane emissions are actually much higher than what is being reported. Could you explain why the figures from the National Greenhouse accounts and the IEA differ greatly? 5. Could it be possible that there are massive amounts of underreporting of emissions? 6. How are you looking to combat underreporting? 7. How would the safeguard mechanism be affected if you acted on underreporting? 8. Through a joint initiative between the Clean Air Task Force and the American Conservation Foundation, methane was found leaking or deliberately vented through 100 individual sources at 35 industrial sites, using optimal gas imaging technology. Are you aware of this and if so, what has your response been? 	Written
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				<p>9. Are you aware of and have you been investing in methane reduction technologies? For example, I'm aware of one agribusiness that uses cattlefeed that can see a reduction of up to 80% in methane emissions from cows.</p> <p>10. If not, why not? Given that cattle and beef exports are hugely important in this country and if farmers can continue to retain cattle numbers or even increase them while reducing emissions, why wouldn't we support that?</p> <p>11. Does the government support the continuing presence of the cattle and beef industries in this country for the foreseeable future?</p> <p>12. If so, rather than promoting the reduction in cattle populations, which impacts jobs and the economy, how is the government ensuring investment in emissions reducing technologies for the sector?</p> <p>13. It is our understanding that the northern Australian cattle industry is supposed to be one of the significant sources of GHG's in Australia. Would you agree?</p> <p>14. In order to meet international commitments is it the intention of the Australian government to reduce or limit the size of the northern Australian cattle herd on the basis of GHG emissions?</p> <p>15. Is the Minister and department aware of technologies available to substantially reduce GHG's while at the same time enabling productivity growth and herd expansion?</p>	
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					<p>16. Is the Minister or staff aware of any proposals for northern Australia that would both increase livestock industry productivity, disaster resilience and reduce livestock methane gas emissions by approximately 80% ?</p> <p>17. What action has been taken to investigate the opportunity and support it?</p> <p>18. Why would such opportunities not be investigated and supported?</p> <p>19. Is the Minister only interested in reducing emissions from power generation by wind and solar despite the loss of prime farming and the national estate given over to grid connections?</p> <p>20. What are you doing to encourage and facilitate the uptake of such technologies?</p>	
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133	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001582	Bridget McKenzie	Renewable Energy Zones	Why do the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) identified by AEMO and supported the State Labor governments happen to be located on the premier agricultural land in Australia?	Written
134	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001594	Jonathon Duniam	Cleaner Antarctica Program	Has the Cleaner Antarctica Program been terminated, or at least reduced in scope? If yes: (a) on what date was this decision made? (b) why was this decision made?	Written
135	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001592	Jonathon Duniam	Macquarie Island Modernisation Project	By what date is all of the remaining spending on the Macquarie Island Modernisation Project currently scheduled to be expended?	Written
136	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001589	Jonathon Duniam	AAD staff's evidence to Senate Inquiry	In submissions to the current Senate inquiry into the funding of the Australian Antarctic Division, and at the recent inquiry hearings in Hobart, various allegations were made about "at least half a dozen" current AAD employees apparently being pressured not to give evidence to the committee. What practical and urgent steps has Minister Plibersek, or anyone else in the Federal Government, taken in order to investigate and, where necessary, act upon, those claims?	Written

137	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001429	Malcolm Roberts	Investment in the Australian Antarctic Division	<p>Labor must not cut the budget supporting our presence in the Australian Antarctic Territory.</p> <p>We must support our presence in the Antarctic through enhanced research and infrastructure to ensure the protection of our interests in the Australian Antarctic Territory.</p> <p>Not to do so opens the gate to claims for a part of our territory by countries including China who are spending vast sums of money investing in their future claims to territory currently claimed by Australia.</p> <p>Australia, as one of the original Antarctic Treaty signatories, lays claim to the largest portion of the Antarctic continent.</p> <p>Hobart is a current gateway to the Antarctic and should be promoted in that role.</p> <p>China already has 4 bases researching topics of vital interest for China, set up within the Australian Antarctic Territory.</p> <p>It is a sure bet that China will lay claim to a portion of the Antarctic continent currently claimed by Australia, based on China's investment and activity, when the Treaty is next reconsidered.</p> <p>The Coalition Government stupidly cancelled the development of an all-season runway for aircraft to invest in Australia's future security in the Antarctic.</p> <p>Our future claims will not be treated seriously if we do not treat</p>	Written
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					<p>our own claims seriously now.</p> <p>Budget cuts by this government will come back to haunt this government when the Antarctic Treaty is renegotiated.</p> <p>Q 1 Why has this government cut investment in the Australian Antarctic Division?</p> <p>Q 2 What is the extent of these budget cuts?</p> <p>Q 3 Will this government reconsider the previous shortsighted decision to cancel the building of an all weather runway in the Australian Antarctic Territory that could operate throughout the year?</p> <p>Q 4 Will this government have the courage and foresight to act to preserve Australian claims to a fair proportion of the Antarctic continent as was agreed under the Antarctic Treaty?</p>	
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138	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001567	Bridget McKenzie	Renewable Energy Zones and HVDC lines	<p>1. Why do the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) identified by AEMO and supported the State Labor governments happen to be located on the premier agricultural land in Australia?</p> <p>2. Considering many objections to transmission lines would be abated by putting HVDC lines underground, do you believe that the added cost is better paid than have regional communities angered and highly resistant to the V West/WRL project?</p> <p>3. Do you consider the statements from the Victorian Energy Minister Lily d'Ambrosio that she is willing to use compulsory acquisition powers to force access to landholders properties acceptable or achievable considering the rising level of protests?</p> <p>4. Could you identify any landholders along the proposed path of these lines who are willing participants? If there are any, what percentage of landholders effected is that?</p> <p>5. How many hectares of land in these zones is envisaged to be under renewables or impacted by project boundaries?</p> <p>6. Why were peak farmer and municipal bodies never part of AEMO's planning process when they are heavily impacted by the roll out of renewables?</p> <p>7. Has the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water had any input into AEMO's Integrated Systems Plan (ISP) in light of the security concerns of making our electricity grid reliant on manufactures overwhelmingly from China?</p>	Written
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					<p>8. High voltage 500 Kv transmission lines have a two circuits on each tower and in the case of flash over, severe winds or tower failure from extreme weather (as predicted by the BoM in climate change scenarios) this would lead to both circuits being lost and a resulting cascading failure, with immediate blackouts for major cities relying on the planned inter-connector lines.</p> <p>How can AEMO justify its claim of bringing reliable power to Eastern Australia through the ISP when it is both reliant on favourable weather for generation, and for secure transmission?</p> <p>9. What data can be produced to show that extreme weather events won't lead to profound failures in both generation and transmission in this plan?</p>	
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139	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001472	Jonathon Duniam	Right of Entry	<p>1. Do you have document control policies, clean-desk policies, and other policy controls on access to sensitive information? Do you control access to your premises, either as a matter of government security or security for your staff?</p> <p>2. Do you allow anyone not employed by your organisation to come onto your sites unannounced?</p> <p>a. What should happen if a member of the public arrived at your site(s) asserting a legal right into your premises with no prior notice? Would the police be called?</p> <p>b. Would it create a security concern were there to be any unannounced entry onto your work sites without your permission?</p> <p>c. Would it be consistent with your information and physical security policies for union official(s) to enter your site(s) without any prior notification to your organisation?</p> <p>d. What would you require of a union official who did seek unannounced entry at your work site(s) under an amended Fair Work Act? For example, would they need to undertake a site induction, or would they need a security check and so forth?</p> <p>e. If a union official(s) sought to enter your organisation's premises, unannounced and with no indication of a security clearance or other qualification to be within your premises, would you allow entry straight away or would you delay allowing them onto your work site(s) until you could obtain proper information,</p>	Written
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					and assess the particular risks and concerns of their entry and where they may go on site?	
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140	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001507	Jonathon Duniam	Legal challenges - Coal and gas projects	<p>1. Since 1 June 2022, how many coal and gas projects that have been approved under EPBC Act have been legally challenged by environmental groups and/or taken to court?</p> <p>2. How many of the 18 coal and gas reviews that were initiated by environmental activists last year are still yet to be finalised? And, in respect of each of those reviews that have now been finalised, how many of those projects have been allowed to proceed in unaltered form?</p> <p>3. What is currently the Department's understanding of the effect of all of the legal challenges, since 1 June 2022, to proposed industrial projects in Australia, in terms of:</p> <p>a. the total amount of investment that has been lost to Australia because of these challenges;</p> <p>b. the total amount of jobs that have been lost at the affected companies (as well as indirect jobs outside of those companies) because of these challenges; and</p> <p>c. the total amount of petajoules of additional gas supply that has been held up from reaching the Australian market because of these challenges.</p> <p>4. On what specific analysis and modelling is that understanding based?</p>	Written
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141	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001458	Hollie Hughes	Offshore Approvals	<p>1. Can you please inform me as to what the requirements were or objectives that were in mind when picking the several regions to host offshore wind zones? Please provide specific details as to the selection process.</p> <p>2. What about risks to avoid? Is there a certain wind speed and frequency that is too dangerous? Or water level that is too shallow or deep to be considered? What about wave heights and weather profiles – are there some regions which the infrastructure may be unable to operate? Can you speak through other regions which were shortlisted but perhaps not prioritised?</p> <p>3. Are the several sites earmarked for offshore wind, the only zones available to us across our entire 25,760 kilometre coastline?</p> <p>4. Did the department acquire assistance from overseas? Other jurisdictions who have done this kind of work before? Future proponents perhaps or developers?</p> <p>5. How big is the team dedicated to Offshore Wind in DCCEEW?</p> <p>6. Have you had your approach verified by international experts?</p> <p>7. Was visual amenity ever a consideration? Or perhaps, a view about how difficult it may be to convince the local community who would need to host the projects of the benefits?</p> <p>8. What about the value of homes which would now be given an industrial horizon as opposed to a natural one? Was this a consideration?</p> <p>9. What about the government's renewable energy targets? Was</p>	Written
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				<p>the selection of zones influenced by this at all? Or perhaps the government's 2035 targets?</p> <p>10. Once the government decides where it wants the offshore wind zone to be, what are the next steps when it comes to community engagement?</p> <p>11. What is the communication strategy? What is the budget for each wind zone's strategy? Are you required to conduct radio ads? Social media ads? Flyers? Door knocking?</p> <p>12. How effective does the department believe these consultation periods have been so far? Have you won the support of the community and earned a social licence for the projects?</p> <p>13. So, the government intends to get Australia to net zero by 2050 and while we have never seen an actual plan to do so it's fair to say they think it will be done with nearly 100% renewables.</p> <p>14. Is the government relying on these offshore wind projects to achieve its net zero ambitions?</p> <p>15. Do you accept that the consultation process is deeply flawed and has failed communities in the Hunter like in Port Stephens, the Central Coast specifically Norah Head, and others?</p> <p>16. Why do you think there has been such an enormous kick-back to your consultations?</p> <p>17. The first wind zone which was declared by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy was Gippsland as we all know. How</p>	
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				<p>did the community there react?</p> <p>18. Is it fair to say this community is far more accepting of the proposal than others seem to be?</p> <p>19. Why do you think that is?</p> <p>20. Why have communities in the Hunter Offshore Wind Zone, and in the Illawarra protested against this?</p> <p>21. Can you please explain why the government is continuing to use its flawed engagement process while a review is underway?</p> <p>22. Is this fair and reasonable for the several communities which are having to endure the broken process we currently have?</p> <p>23. The review is set to finish up by the end of the year, so too are the consultations for the government's planned wind zones. Will zones be declared and finished BEFORE the new engagement process is in place?</p> <p>24. Are there any limits on the size of a declared area for an offshore renewable project?</p> <p>25. What sorts of environmental protections, or considerations have been undertaken with regard to offshore wind projects disrupting native marine life?</p> <p>26. Has there been any resistance or concerns raised by conservation groups with regard to this? What were their concerns?</p>	
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					<p>27. Under the safeguard mechanism reforms, the default and best practice emissions intensity of reservoir CO2 emissions of new gas fields is specified as zero. Does this mean all new offshore gas projects will be forced to offset all emissions from day dot?</p> <p>28. Do you think these sorts of measures imply the government has no interest in future gas or coal in Australia despite the necessity of firmed gas supply in the energy market for both supply and lower prices due to the exit of coal?</p> <p>29. Is there an update on where the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator is with the development of regulations around environment and management plans?</p> <p>30. Are there concerns around transparency under the OEI Act which outlines the requirement to possibly publish only a summary of draft and approved management plans? (As I understand it, NOPSEMA must publish a copy of decisions about environment plans on its website relating to coal and gas, while the regulator may publish a summary of a plan submitted for a renewable approval.)</p> <p>31. Does the government intend to review or extend the scope of NOPSEMA's endorsed program to offshore electricity infrastructure projects given the strategic assessment allowed under part 10 of the EPBC Act streamlines the approval process for offshore oil and gas activities?</p> <p>32. In December 2022, the NSW govt declared the Hunter-Central Coast REZ which included the production of offshore wind.</p>	
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					<p>However, it has been reported that offshore wind would be developed in Commonwealth Waters. Do you know where those projects will be developed and who will be responsible for administering and funding them in this region?</p> <p>33. How have the states and commonwealth managed responsibilities with regard to projects that overlap jurisdictions? Is it a shared responsibility? Where is the funding primarily coming from, etc?</p> <p>34. In the occasion where commonwealth interests conflict with the state position, whose position takes precedence?</p> <p>35. During the last round of estimates, the department claimed the management of offshore projects fell under the remit of NOPSEMA. When NOPSEMA was questioned during their round of estimates, they claimed that it was in fact DCCEEW that had carriage of this? Do you agree with this claim?</p> <p>36. How can Australians have confidence in the government's ability to deliver these projects if ownership of said projects are ambiguous?</p>	
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142	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001497	Hollie Hughes	DCCEEW - ACCU discontinuation	<p>The HIR method for ACCU was recently discontinued by the Government by not extending the date it was set to sunset on, despite this type of credit making up over 30% of the entire market. Reports from NAB highlight that prices will soar in coming years with the Safeguard mechanism a key contributing factor.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can we please get an update on how the administration and management of ACCUs is progressing? 2. And the HIR Method was recently discontinued was it not? Why was that? That made up about 30% of the market didn't it? Were participants compensated? 3. Was that at the expense of the CER, and by extension the taxpayer? 4. Reports from NAB suggest prices will likely soar in coming years - do you dispute that projection? 5. Will the imposition of the Safeguard Mechanism not see more ACCU purchases? And won't that see prices increase? 6. Do you have stop gap measures in place to deal with this issue? What are they? 	Written
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143	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001509	Hollie Hughes	CER - ACCU discontinuation	<p>1. Can we please get an update on how the administration and management of ACCUs is progressing?</p> <p>2. And the HIR Method was recently discontinued was it not? Why was that?</p> <p>3. That made up about 30% of the market didn't it? Were participants compensated?</p> <p>4. Was that at the expense of the CER, and by extension the taxpayer?</p> <p>5. Reports from NAB suggest prices will likely soar in coming years - do you dispute that projection?</p> <p>6. Will the imposition of the Safeguard Mechanism not see more ACCU purchases? And won't that see prices increase?</p> <p>7. Do you have stop gap measures in place to deal with this issue? What are they?</p>	Written
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144	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001545	Hollie Hughes	Rewiring the Nation Fund project funding	<p>1.The Government has confirmed that \$16 billion of the \$20 billion Rewiring the Nation Fund has already been committed. Can the Department please explain which projects have already been committed to via this funding and the value of each investment.</p> <p>2.Can the Department please provide the assumed benefits of these projects relating to any perceived financial, reliability and social benefits of such projects.</p> <p>3.Can the Department define the Government's use of the term 'committed' with regard to this funding.</p> <p>4.Does this mean that the \$16 billion is now locked away and unable to be withdrawn if circumstances change, for instance if the costs blow out to a level which the costs outweigh the risks?</p> <p>5.Can the Department and relevant agency please explain the Government's claim that 'as a result of policy initiatives like these, there is 3.4 GW more capacity in the grid this summer than there was last summer.'?</p> <p>6.Does this 3.4GW of 'more capacity' include residential generation including rooftop solar?</p> <p>7.Does this 3.4GW include battery storage?</p> <p>8.Does this capacity include existing thermal generators which were not in operation last summer?</p> <p>9.Does this 3.4GW include projects which were committed to and</p>	Written
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					<p>reach final investment decision during the former Coalition Government's previous term in government?</p> <p>10.The Government has claimed that 'to get to net zero we have to deliver five major transmission projects by 2030.' Can the Department or relevant agency please explain which five projects this is referring to?</p> <p>11.What stage of development are each of these five projects at and are they on track for delivery?</p> <p>12.The Government claims that an increase of the 'NEM's current storage capacity to more than ten times its current size by 2050' is required. Does this ten times figure include projects that are currently under construction such a Snowy 2.0 or the eventual 850MW Waratah Super Battery?</p>	
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145	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001525	Jonathon Duniam	National Environmental Standard for First Nations engagement and participation	Has the completion of the National Environmental Standard for 'First Nations engagement and participation in decision making' been deferred until at least February 2024? And, if so, what are the reasons for this?	Written
146	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001516	Jonathon Duniam	Consultation on EPBC Act changes	1. Especially in the wake of the sessions held on 30 and 31 October, has it now been decided on what date(s) further consultations on the Government's proposed EPBC Act changes will occur? If so, what are those date(s)? 2. When will key stakeholders first specifically see the proposed transitional arrangements between the old and new legislation? And when will the broader Australian public first specifically see the proposed transitional arrangements between the old and new legislation?	Written

147	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001440	Bridget McKenzie	Renewable Energy Zones	<p>1. Why do the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) identified by AEMO and supported the State Labor governments happen to be located on the premier agricultural land in Australia?</p> <p>2. How many hectares of land in these zones is envisaged to be under renewables or impacted by project boundaries?</p> <p>3. Why were peak farmer and municipal bodies never part of AEMO's planning process when they are heavily impacted by the roll out of renewables?</p> <p>4. Has the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water had any input into AEMO's Integrated Systems Plan (ISP) in light of the security concerns of making our electricity grid reliant on manufactures overwhelmingly from China?</p> <p>5. High voltage 500 Kv transmission lines have a two circuits on each tower and in the case of flash over, severe winds or tower failure from extreme weather (as predicted by the BoM in climate change scenarios) this would lead to both circuits being lost and a resulting cascading failure, with immediate blackouts for major cities relying on the planned inter-connector lines.</p> <p>6. How can AEMO justify its claim of bringing reliable power to Eastern Australia through the ISP when it is both reliant on favourable weather for generation, and for secure transmission?</p> <p>7. AEMO CEO Daniel Westerman has said repeatedly that the planned 500 Kv inter-connector transmission line projects are vital to import and export power between Victoria and NSW.</p>	Written
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					<p>8. The data shows that renewable generation (wind & solar) is highly correlated between the two states, so the benefits of trade are small and cannot be used to justify the expenditure of billions of dollars on this line.</p> <p>9. Is it fair to say that the true reason for the inter-connector is to give renewable companies a pathway to the National Electricity Market (NEM) that is operated by AEMO?</p> <p>10. You must agree that this is an investment incentive and not a vital piece of electrical engineering.</p> <p>11. The NSW Upper House is holding an inquiry into the undergrounding of Humelink and other new lines in NSW. How can VNI West work if it is undergrounded using HVDC on one side of the border and overhead 500 kV on the other side of the border?</p> <p>12. Why isn't the Victorian Government co-ordinating with the NSW Government on whether the VNI West should be overhead or underground?</p> <p>13. What data can be produced to show that extreme weather events won't lead to profound failures in both generation and transmission in this plan?</p>	
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148	Australian Energy Regulator	SQ23-001417	Malcolm Roberts	Endeavour Energy trial	<p>Referring to "AER approves first sandbox trial waiver to help reduce network costs for NSW consumers" 11 October 2023 https://www.aer.gov.au/news-release/aer-approves-first-sandbox-trial-waiver-to-help-reduce-network-costs-for-nsw-consumers. Do the "consumer protections measures" relating to the Endeavour Energy trial include:</p> <p>(a) the right for a consumer to refuse to participate in the trial or refuse to have a smart meter installed?</p> <p>(b) a prohibition on the smart meter being used to turn off the power?</p>	Written
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149	Australian Energy Regulator	SQ23-001590	Bridget McKenzie	Pass through system	<p>1. How does the AER justify using the "pass through" practise to excuse transmission companies from paying state taxes. The recent decision to pass through the 55 million dollar Victorian easement land tax payable by AusNet looks very much like corporate welfare and simply burdens Victorian power users?</p> <p>2. How extensive is the use of the "pass though" system and can the AER point to any other private industry in Australia that can rely on the cost recovery method that you employ?</p> <p>3. How can WRI-VNI West cost only \$bn2.5 for 396 kms of transmission line in Victoria, when TransGrid says that Hume link will now cost \$on4.9 for only 360 kms of line. On TransGrid's figures, the Sbn2.5 has already blown out to \$bn5.4 which is 1.5 times the total \$bn3.5 value of Victoria's whole transmission grid. Wont this mean that transmission charges must more than double yet AEMO says they will only increase by 25% to 50%?</p> <p>4. Has the Department of Defence had any input into AMO's Integrated Systems Plan (ISP) in light of the security concerns of making our electricity grid reliant on manufactures overwhelmingly from China?</p> <p>5. What data can be produced to show that extreme weather events won't lead to profound failures in both generation and transmission in this plan?</p>	Written
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150	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001534	Jonathon Duniam	Renewable energy projects	<p>Since Ms Plibersek became Environment Minister:</p> <p>(a) how many renewable energy projects have been fully assessed under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>(b) how many of those renewable energy projects have been approved?</p> <p>(c) how many of those renewable energy projects have not been approved?</p> <p>(d) has any renewable energy project been rejected because of its environmental impact at construction or pre-construction stage – and, if so, which one(s)?</p> <p>(e) has any renewable energy project been rejected because of its after-working-life environmental impact – and, if so, which one(s)?</p>	Written
151	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001538	Jonathon Duniam	Assessment process for renewable energy projects	For each assessment of a renewable energy project, what specific forms of information are gathered by the Department and the Minister so that she (and/or her delegates) can make informed decisions on the full life-cycle environmental costs associated with such projects?	Written
152	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001379	Nick McKim	MMG tailings dam near Roseberry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the status of the proposed tailings dam for the MMG mine near Roseberry? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the Tasmanian Government put the proposal before the Minister? 2. Has the clock started on the proposal for exploratory works for a tailings dam? 3. Will the final decision rest with the Minister or with a delegate? 4. Has the Department been made aware of alternatives to a tailings dam, such as lifting the dam walls or paste-fill operations? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Will these alternatives be considered as part of the 	Written

					<p>Department's assessments?</p> <p>b. Does the Department have any obligation to consider alternative proposals beyond the requirement to consider matters raised by public comment?</p>	
153	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001595	Peter Whish-Wilson	Sharks	<p>1. What discussions has the Government had with state governments in relation to replacing lethal drum lines, implementing non-lethal shark mitigation and deterrent measures?</p> <p>2. How does DCCEEW monitor target and non-target species interactions with shark control measures?</p> <p>3. How does DCCEEW assess the impacts of lethal shark control measures on target and non-target marine species, including listed-species?</p> <p>4. Since 2017, how much funding has the Commonwealth government provided for research areas that are considered likely to significantly contribute to improved knowledge about effective shark mitigation and deterrent measures?</p>	Written

154	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001543	Jonathon Duniam	Global Biodiversity Framework	<p>1. Has Australia missed any of its reporting deadlines, to date, in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework – and, if so, which ones and why have they been missed?</p> <p>2. Has Australia failed to meet any of its financial obligations, to date, in relation to the Global Biodiversity Framework – and, if so, which ones and why have they not been met?</p> <p>3. Was Ms Plibersek fully aware of what the financial ramifications would be for Australia when she signed up to this agreement?</p> <p>4. Does the Department now possess the details of what the full financial costs are to Australia of Ms Plibersek having signed this Framework – or, if is this still not known, by what date will it be known?</p>	Written
155	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001634	Jonathon Duniam	Letter to Ms Audrey Azouley	<p>1. In relation to the letter of 25 May 2023 written by Ms Plibersek to Ms Audrey Azoulay, what is the precise extent of progress on each of the respective commitments numbered from 1 to 6 inclusive under the heading of 'Water quality'?</p> <p>2. Will each of the commitments numbered 1, 2 and 6 be fully delivered by their respective due dates of 31 December 2023, 31 December 2023 and January 2024? If not, why not – and what, specifically, will remain unactioned by those dates?</p>	Written

156	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001542	Jonathon Duniam	Risks to animals at renewable energy sites	<p>1. In respect of the renewable energy projects that have been approved since Ms Plibersek became Environment Minister, how were assessments and projections specifically made about how many animals would be endangered and/or killed at each of those sites?</p> <p>2. As one current example of such a case: can the Department explain how community concerns about the endangerment of animals at the proposed wind farm off the Illawarra coastline are specifically being addressed? These include fears that there may be a range of significant, detrimental consequences of approval of the project for the migratory pathways of whales (including the long-term separation of mothers and calves) and bird species, as well as deformities in a variety of marine species, including lobsters.</p> <p>3. In respect of the renewable energy projects that have been approved since Ms Plibersek became Environment Minister, what records are kept of how many animals are killed at each of those specific sites?</p> <p>4. What information does the Department possess that shows how many animals are killed by wind farms in Australia annually?</p> <p>5. What information does the Department possess that shows how many animals are killed by solar projects in Australia annually?</p> <p>6. Does the Government accept that there is considerable, and increasing, evidence that offshore wind farms are killing many species, including whales?</p> <p>7. What are the reasons that the Albanese Government is placing or contemplating such restrictive controls on activities such as gillnet fishing in Queensland, salmon farming in Tasmania, and fishing in the Macquarie Island area – but is not applying the</p>	Written
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					same concerns or controls to renewable energy projects, even where they are endangering many animals?	
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157	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001416	Jane Hume	2022-23 October Budget measures - Savings from External Labour and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses	<p>In relation to the measure in the 2022-23 October Budget, Savings from External Labour, and Savings from Advertising, Travel and Legal Expenses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the value of savings that the Department/agency was requested to deliver for the 2022-23 year in aggregate? 2. Has the Department/agency identified the savings they will make across the following areas to achieve this cut: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 3. Can the Department/agency provide a breakdown of the funding reductions they have made in totality, and in each of the above areas, and what they relate to? 4. Has the Department/agency been informed of the cut that will be made to their funding in the next financial year, or the rest of the forward estimates? 5. Can the Department/agency confirm the total new number of contracts (ongoing and terminating) and total cost of these contracts issued on AusTender since 30 June 2022 which relate to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. External labour hire b. Consultancy c. Advertising campaigns d. Travel e. Legal expenses 4. Please provide a breakdown of the value of contracts across each area, and identify the categories on AusTender which are used to determine the Departments identification of the contracts. 	Written
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					<p>5. Is the Department/agency on track to meet the saving target?</p> <p>6. Has the Department/agency sought an exemption or alternation from/to the savings target?</p> <p>a. If so, why and was it approved?</p>	
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158	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001499	Jonathon Duniam	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority	Since becoming Minister for the Environment and Water, has Ms Plibersek sought any formal briefings and/or any other type of advice on the environmental approvals regime administered by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority? If yes: (a) on what date(s) did she seek such briefings and/or advice; and (b) on what date(s) were such briefings and/or advice provided, and by whom?	Written
159	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001633	Sarah Hanson-Young	Santos ERF Project	Does condition 25B of EPBC approval 2012/6615, along with the relevant management plan, require that the proponent plant or manage a forest for the beneficial re-use of wastewater in irrigation areas in Fairview?	Written
160	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001500	Jonathon Duniam	Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006	Since becoming Minister for the Environment and Water, has Ms Plibersek sought any formal briefings and/or any other type of advice on the operation of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006? If yes: (a) on what date(s) did she seek such briefings and/or advice; and (b) on what date(s) were such briefings and/or advice provided, and by whom?	Written

161	Clean Energy Regulator	SQ23-001635	Larissa Waters	Safeguard mechanism - Pluto LNG and North West Shelf LNG	<p>1. Has Woodside applied for a variation to its current baseline under the Safeguard Mechanism for its Pluto LNG facility, to accommodate the doubling in size of the facility?</p> <p>2. Will the Commonwealth grant a higher baseline for the Pluto LNG production facility under the Safeguard Mechanism when Train 2 is built to process Scarborough gas, or will it operate under its existing baseline?</p> <p>3. Has Woodside applied for a variation to its current baseline under the Safeguard Mechanism for its North West Shelf LNG facility, to accommodate the doubling in size of the facility?</p> <p>5. Will the Commonwealth grant a higher baseline for the North West Shelf LNG production facility under the Safeguard Mechanism, or will the facility operate under its existing baseline?</p>	Written
162	Clean Energy Regulator	SQ23-001617	Sarah Hanson-Young	Santos ERF Projects	<p>1. Regarding ERF166387, has the proponent applied for any ACCUs? If so, when?</p> <p>2. Regarding ERF167459, has the proponent applied for any ACCUs? If so, when?</p> <p>a. What is the energy efficiency that was or is proposed in the project? What changes are being made at the site?</p> <p>3. Regarding ERF170772, has the proponent applied for any ACCUs? If so, when?</p> <p>a. What is the energy efficiency that was or is proposed in the project? What changes are being made at the site?</p> <p>4. Regarding ERF101694, how many times has the proponent applied for ACCUs and when?</p> <p>a) Upon registration, was this project a pre-existing project pursuant to section 15 of the methodology determination?</p> <p>b. Upon registration, was section 16(3) of the methodology determination relevant to this project and its regulatory additionality?</p>	Written

					5. Regarding ERF120180, is the project associated with a safeguard mechanism facility? If so, which facility?	
163	Clean Energy Regulator	SQ23-001596	Jonathon Duniam	Plantation forestry	<p>1. How many plantation forestry method projects has the CER assessed for each of the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24?</p> <p>2. What has been the average assessment time for plantation forestry method projects in the last financial year?</p> <p>3. How does that compare to other method assessment times?</p> <p>4. Has the Supporting Plantation Establishment grant program increased the applications to the Clean Energy Regulator of plantation forestry method projects? If so, please specify the amount of that increase.</p> <p>5. Will staffing need to be increased to the relevant section of the agency in order to satisfactorily deal with the increased projects coming through that program?</p>	Written

164	Director of National Parks	SQ23-001572	Jonathon Duniam	Kakadu upgrades	<p>In relation to the Kakadu upgrades funded in the Budget of May 2023:</p> <p>(a) on what date did work on these upgrades begin?</p> <p>(b) on what date are these works all scheduled to finish?</p> <p>(c) have there been any delays in the program of works so far?</p> <p>(d) has the cost of these works changed since it was initially included in that Budget and, if so, why and by how much?</p>	Written
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165	Clean Energy Regulator	SQ23-001624	Sarah Hanson-Young	Carbon estimation areas of human induced regeneration projects	<p>1. In response to SQ23-001088, the CER indicated that it is aware of HIR projects in which proponents have strategically placed the model point location in areas with higher-than-average maximum biomass to 'potentially increase the abatement estimated by the model for the CEA'. Within that context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many HIR projects have placed the model point in a location with higher-than-average maximum biomass? b. How many HIR projects have placed the model point in a location that is representative of the median maximum biomass? c. When did the CER become aware that some projects were adopting a 'strategic placement of the modelling point'? d. Given the HIR method specified that the model point location needed to be placed where it was 'representative of the CEA,' what compliance or remedial action did the CER take or contemplate to correct such strategic placements of the model point location? <p>2. Of those projects that re-stratified their CEAs following the CER's release of final guidelines for the stratification of HIR and NFMR projects in 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the aggregate CEA area prior to and then following the re-stratification? b. What was the aggregate ACCUs awarded each year from 2015 - present for those projects? 	Written
166	Clean Energy Regulator	SQ23-001600	Jonathon Duniam	Supporting Plantation Establishment grant	Under current guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, if an applicant wants to apply for ACCUs, they must apply to the CER and have that project registered before an applicant can apply to the Supporting Plantation Establishment grant. Is this a requirement that has	Written

					been stipulated by the CER – or was it instigated by someone else and, if so, whom and when?	
167	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001423	Jane Hume	Executive travel	<p>1. Please provide an itemised list of the Secretary's/agency deputy head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of each Deputy Secretary's/agency head's travel for financial year 2023/24 to date, including costs of flights and accommodation.</p>	Written
168	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001405	Malcolm Roberts	Forward progress of Florence	Please provide a breakdown of the forward progress of the tunnelling machine Florence from the starting point for every month from October 2022 to date (in metres).	Written
169	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001433	Ross Cadell	Snowy Hydro 2.0 cost overruns	1. The all-up cost of Snowy Hydro 2.0 has been estimated \$25 billion or \$1000 per Australian. What is the current internal rate of return (IRR) of Snowy 2.0 based on this cost?	Written
170	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001431	Ross Cadell	Snowy Hydro 2.0	<p>1. How will Snowy Hydro 2.0 operate three and more of the six pumps at Snowy 2.0 at the same time after Hume link is completed? Please provide details.</p> <p>2. Will the existing Tumut 3 pumps use most of the allowable pumping capacity? How will this impact the operation of the Snowy 2.0 pumps?</p> <p>3. Has Snowy Hydro committed to all six Snowy 2.0 units being variable speed? How will this impact the power system security?</p>	Written

171	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001419	Jane Hume	Functions and official receptions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following: a. List of functions; b. List of attendees; c. Function venue; d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); e. Details of any food served; f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and g. Details of any entertainment provided.	Written
172	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001632	Sarah Hanson-Young	EPBC offsets	1. The response to question 13 of SQ22-000725 indicates the department was following up on the legal protection of Lot 10 on LP212758 in Victoria, an offset for a residential development at Truganina. The lot, following subdivision, is now Lot 1 on PS809284. a. Was Lot 10 protected prior to subdivision? b. Is Lot 1 protected? c. Is another parcel of land being protected? If so, where is it (Lot/Plan)? 2. In SQ23-001107, the department indicated that there are legal mechanisms it does not accept as adequate protection for land as an offset. What are those mechanisms?	Written
173	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001492	Hollie Hughes	Hydrogen Projects	Can the department please provide a clear and extensive update on the several Hydrogen Hubs previously announced by the Coalition when they were in Government? Including but not limited to.. Port Bonython Hydrogen Hub Activation, La Trobe Hydrogen project, Bell Bay Hydrogen Hub, Townsville hydrogen hub and Gladstone?	Written

174	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001575	Ralph Babet	The Cost of Transitioning to Net Zero	<p>1. According to the latest Net Zero Australia report, we are supposedly spending \$1.5 trillion on our "energy transition" by 2030 and an estimated 7 to 9 trillion by 2060. Can you tell us how many degrees of global warming will be prevented by this expenditure, or alternatively how much the average global temperature will be reduced as a result of this expenditure?</p> <p>2. What modelling has your department relied upon to measure our contribution to reducing the global temperature or preventing a rise in global temperature?</p> <p>a. Has this modelling been verified independently?</p> <p>b. If so, by whom?</p>	Written
175	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001481	Hollie Hughes	AEIC Review and Offshore Wind	<p>1. The AEIC review into community engagement was commissioned just two weeks prior to the declaration of the Offshore Wind Zone. Can the department explain what the purpose of this review is?</p> <p>2. It is well understood that the review aims to fix the currently flawed consultation process, yet the government continues to consult communities regardless. Can you please explain why the government is continuing to use its flawed engagement process while a review is underway?</p> <p>3. Is this fair and reasonable for the several communities which are having to endure the broken process we currently have?</p> <p>4. The review is set to finish up by the end of the year, so too are the consultations for the governments planned wind zones, is it</p>	Written

					the expectation that the zones would be all declared BEFORE the new engagement process was in place?	
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176	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001620	Sarah Hanson-Young	Methane emissions	<p>1. For the 2021/22 reporting period, what proportion of methane emissions (in tCO₂e) reported under the safeguard in 2021/22 were reported by coal mines (please answer using a percentage)?</p> <p>2. For the 2021/22 reporting period, what was the total figure in tCO₂e of methane emissions (in tCO₂e) reported under the safeguard in 2021/22 by open cut coal mines?</p> <p>3. For the 2021/22 reporting period, what was the total figure in tCO₂e of methane emissions (in tCO₂e) reported under the safeguard in 2021/22 by underground coal mines?</p> <p>4. For the 2021/22 reporting period, what was the total figure in tCO₂e of methane emissions (in tCO₂e) reported under the safeguard in 2021/22 by gas facilities?</p> <p>5. For the 2021/22 reporting period, what was the total figure in tCO₂e of methane emissions (in tCO₂e) reported under the safeguard in 2021/22 by oil facilities?</p> <p>6. Broken down by method, how much methane in tCO₂e was reported by coal mines (in aggregate) for each of the four methane measurement methods?</p>	Written
177	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001374	Larissa Waters	Safeguard mechanism - Woodside projects	<p>1. What is the current operating output in LNG of the North West Shelf LNG production facility and what is the proposed operating capacity of the facility in Woodside's North West Shelf extension proposal?</p> <p>2. Will the Government assess the impacts of the North West Shelf extension on Australia's national carbon pollution reduction</p>	Written

					targets or the hard cap under the Safeguard Mechanism? If so, how will this assessment occur and what criteria will be applied?	
178	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001432	Ross Cadell	Snowy Hydro WHS	<p>1. How would you characterise the safety record of Snowy Hydro Hunter Power Project? How many times has work stopped due to safety concerns? Please provide a table from 1 January 2020 to current, broken down by month, number of stop work due to safety concerns and the reason.</p> <p>2. Were workers at the Snowy Hydro Hunter Power Project exposed to defric? Please outline how many were exposed and whether any workers took leave, and if so please outline how long they were on leave.</p> <p>3. Are the reports that Snowy Hydro's principal contractor UGL claimed that workers exposed to defric had contracted COVID accurate?</p>	Written

179	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001501	Jane Hume	Questions to commonwealth companies - Snowy Hydro	<p>1. How many FTE are employed within the GBE within roles relating to government relations and/or government affairs?</p> <p>2. Please provide the total remuneration for the following individuals, including any short-term incentives and a list of any fringe benefits with their estimated value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CEO b. Chair of the Board c. Each member of the executive <p>3. For each member of the board, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Date they were first appointed to the board b. Date their term is due to conclude c. How many terms they have had on the board <p>4. For the Chair of the board, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Date they were first appointed to the board b. Date they were first appointed Chair c. Date their term as Chair is due to conclude d. How many terms they have had on the board e. How many terms they have had as Chair of the board <p>5. Is the GBE a member of any industry bodies? Please list them along with details of any cost or membership fees associated with each body.</p>	Written
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180	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001574	Ralph Babet	Rewiring the Nation strategy	<p>1. As part of the \$20billion being spent on the "rewiring the nation" strategy, the Integrated System Plan that is on your DCCEEW website says there will be around 10,000km of new power lines. Can you tell us how wide the standard easement is for high-voltage transmission lines and stanchions? Is the easement requirement for low-voltage different?</p> <p>a. How many square kilometres of forest will have to be cut down to extend these lines from the wind or solar farms to the electrical grid?</p> <p>b. How many square kilometres of farmland will be impacted by this project?</p> <p>2. On your department's "Rewiring the Nation" website, you refer to allocating \$1billion to the "Rewiring the National Special Account" and your website describes this as enabling investment in "the timely delivery of eligible projects".</p> <p>a. Will these funds be distributed as grants and what criteria must be met to receive funding?</p> <p>b. Will international companies be eligible for funding?</p> <p>c. Provide a copy of the Departments National Guidelines on Community Engagement and Impact Evaluation that steers community and stakeholder consultation to support regulatory reform, policy development and guidance for landholders and communities about their rights and entitlements</p>	Written
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181	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001451	Hollie Hughes	Uyghur Slave Labour in production of solar panels	<p>1. Have you or the minister's office made any inquiries about Uyghur slave labour being used in the production of solar panels, or voiced concerns to Home Affairs? Have any of your staff?</p> <p>2. Should we be worried that our governments and bureaucrats are comfortable with this 'lesser of two evils' mindset?</p>	Written
182	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001368	David Pocock	Contract Notice CN3972792	<p>In relation to Contract Notice CN3972792, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of work included in the contract • The deliverables outlined in the contract • Any performance measures associated with the contract • Any conflicts of interest declared by Boston Consulting Group in its response to the tender • Steps the Department took to manage any conflicts of interest that were declared 	Written
183	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001410	Ross Cadell	Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) forecast	<p>1. The 2022 Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO) forecast that New South Wales will require an additional 1,130 MW in 2025-26 and 1,190 MW in 2026-27 to meet the Interim Reliability Measure. Has DCCEEW altered the Rewiring the Nation program or Net Zero 2050 plan as a result of this modelling?</p>	Written
184	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001437	Gerard Rennick	Government schemes for renewable energy companies	<p>Can I please get a list of the Federal government schemes or subsidies that renewable energy companies can apply for? Can this include payments for carbon offsets, compensation for windfarms to farms and so on, please?</p>	Written

185	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001444	Hollie Hughes	Transmission Lines	<p>1. We have heard warnings from CEOs of Australia's biggest energy companies – Origin Energy, AGL and Energy Australia –that delays in building new transmission will threaten the expansion of renewable energy. To what extent is this claim accurate?</p> <p>2. Does this mean without Labor's transmission projects there is no pathway toward increasing the share of renewables in the grid? Does this suggest there is no room on the grid to build more renewable energy where it's needed?</p> <p>3. Do we know how much capacity each of these transmission projects might individually unlock? Are there specific volumes of energy planned or in the pipeline which will immediately be built or connected once a particular transmission project is built?</p> <p>4. I understand communities have vehemently opposed projects such as VNI West, Western Renewables Link and Humelink, but are you aware of how many properties will be disrupted or directly impacted by these projects?</p> <p>5. For those who do not want to hand over their land, there will ultimately need to be compulsory acquisitions under current arrangements won't there?</p> <p>6. So will people in the country lose their family houses and businesses to provide the cities with what some consider to be 'clean energy'? Is that likely?</p>	Written
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186	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001647	Hollie Hughes	Rewiring the Nation	<p>1. How much of Labor's promised \$20 billion has been spent or committed to;</p> <p>(a) Rewiring the Nation?</p> <p>(b) On the Household Energy Upgrades Fund.</p> <p>2. Are you saying then, that these transmission projects can just continue to spiral out of control and the government will continue investing in them?</p> <p>3. What about the cost of living crisis we are now living through? This will only make things worse and more expensive for people right?</p> <p>4. Can you update us on the status of the Rewiring the Nation project?</p> <p>5. When is the completion date expected for?</p> <p>6. How many kilometres of transmission lines have been installed?</p> <p>7. How many kilometres remain?</p> <p>8. Has there been resistance from communities?</p> <p>9. What were their concerns?</p> <p>10. How were these concerns alleviated, if they were in fact alleviated?</p>	Written
187	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001426	Jane Hume	Staff travel	<p>1. What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p>	Written

188	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001425	Jane Hume	Upgrades to facilities	<p>1. Were the facilities of any of the Departments/agency premises upgraded in financial year 2023/24 to date, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment?</p> <p>2. Please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgraded together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>3. Please provide photographs of the upgraded facilities.</p>	Written
189	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001413	Jane Hume	Cost and sources of paper	<p>1. Please provide the amount of paper the Department/agency sources from Australian producers and from overseas producers.</p> <p>2. Please provide the amount in dollar value on a financial year basis for the last five financial years.</p>	Written

190	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001446	Jane Hume	Credit cards	<p>In relation to departmental use of credit cards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for department or agency staff? 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in financial year 2023/24 to date? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in financial year 2023/24 to date? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy in financial year 2023/24 to date? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in financial year 2023/24 to date and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof? 8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to department or agency policy and asked to be repaid in financial year 2023/243 to date? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid? 9. Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes? 10. Please provide a copy of the department or agency's staff credit card policy. 	Written
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					11. Please denote any changes to this policy that have been made since February 2023	
191	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001519	Jonathon Duniam	Regional planning projects	<p>1. What regional planning projects have been devised during 2023?</p> <p>2. What regional planning projects have been rolled out during 2023?</p>	Written

					3. How much funding has been committed to regional planning projects, over each of the years of the forward estimates?	
192	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001658	Lidia Thorpe	Transgrid, Renewable Energy Sector, Tenders to Blak Businesses	<p>1. TransGrid has received 375 million dollars to build a line from SA through to NSW. CEO Brett Redman said 75 Million was attributed to engage with First People and put housing initiatives in place. How has this money been spent, and what housing initiatives are underway. Please include information on which communities, the specific money spent on which projects, and in what stage of development those are?</p> <p>2. Transgrid is working with two contractors, Secure Energy and Energy Connect. Local community members affected by the work, have advised that what engagement has been done is not what the company is saying is being delivered.</p> <p>a. What engagement, correspondence and complaints have been received? Please include dates and names.</p> <p>3. Please provide a detailed account of the accountability process for contractors of Transgrid to ensure that they in good faith comply with their requirements of community engagement?</p> <p>4. Tenders for the receipt of funding to pursue the local community development initiatives.</p> <p>a. Please provide a detailed account of the tender and selection process.</p> <p>b. List the names of the businesses that applied and got knocked back for funding, and who ultimately received the tender and why.</p>	Written

					<p>c. Please ensure the process followed for the Tender for the Lockhardt line is included.</p> <p>How many Indigenous Controlled businesses were contracted to deliver services from the government money given to Transgrid?</p>	
193	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001660	Jonathon Duniam	Procurement policy	<p>Given that the Government has committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, reducing emissions in the building and construction sector will obviously be critical in meeting this goal. Accordingly:</p> <p>(a) how is the Government specifically ensuring that its procurement policies genuinely prioritise the selection of the lowest emissions option in construction?</p>	Written

194	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001593	Peter Whish-Wilson	Maugean skate	<p>From Estimates (Environment and Communications) on 23 October 2023:</p> <p>Dr Fraser: Yes. As you can appreciate, the science around this species is very complex. Even since the conservation advice was published, more information has come to light through us convening these experts not only from Tasmania and the mainland but also internationally with experts in this field.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please detail this information that has come to light, and the sources. 2. How has this additional information been considered by the Recovery Teams/working groups in their deliberations? <p>From Estimates (Environment and Communications) on 23 October 2023:</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I might come back to that I understand the minister recently met with the aquaculture industry in Tasmania. Could you tell me who was present at that meeting?</p> <p>Dr Fraser: No, I couldn't. I understand the minister did have a meeting in Devonport, but the department wasn't present and we weren't engaged in that meeting.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Minister, could you take on notice who attended that meeting from the salmon industry and the purpose of the meeting? Was it a listening exercise for the salmon industry or in any way a briefing as to what the department's plans are around Macquarie Harbour?</p> <p>Senator McAllister: I'll take that on notice and see what we can provide</p>	Written
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				<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What discussions were undertaken at that meeting in relation any oxygenation project for Macquarie Harbour?2. What factors influenced dissolved oxygen trials to become a priority area of research from the Maugean skate recovery team?3. How was consideration of dissolved oxygen trials prioritized over consideration of the conservation advice to remove salmonid aquaculture and nitrogen loads from organic salmon?4. How is it envisaged that any oxygenation project will improve oxygen levels, while the salmonid aquaculture remains in operation?5. On 29th June and again on 7th September, Minister Plibersek said that there were fewer than 1,000 Maugean skates in Macquarie Harbour. Where did the Minister get this figure from? What is the Department's estimate of skate numbers and what data is this based on?6. What estimates for the Maugean skate population have been made, or are available, for in 2 years time assuming the salmonid aquaculture continues? What data is available taking into account the cessation of the salmonid aquaculture industry?7. The Minister also noted that further information was expected from IMAS about population; has that information been provided? If not, when can it be expected?8. Salmon Tasmania has claimed that it has raised concerns about the decline in the Maugean skate for "some time"? Prior to this year, what conversations is the Department aware of where concerns about the Maugean skate were raised by the salmon industry in Tasmania?9. In relation the 'particular manner' exemption for salmon farming companies in Macquarie Harbour, how does the exemption take account of multiple unrelated corporations working together under one EPBC decision notice?	
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					<p>10. In respect of the 'particular manner' exemption, what impact do the actions of one corporation have that could affect the liability of the other corporations?</p>	
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195	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001493	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office - EJA	Did anyone from the Department and/or Government contact Environmental Justice Australia prior to the October 2022 Budget to inform the organisation that it would be allocated new funding in that Budget? If so, who contacted them; in what form(s); and on what date(s)?	Written
196	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001491	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office - new funding	Did anyone from the Department and/or Government contact the EDO prior to the October 2022 Budget to inform the organisation that it would be allocated new funding in that Budget? If so, who contacted them; in what form(s); and on what date(s)?	Written
197	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001485	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office grant - First nations engagement	Mr Hanlon said, at the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, that some of the milestones of the grant agreement with the EDO are related to work on First Nations country and Indigenous cultural heritage activity. Given that the EDO was already undertaking various forms of First Nations country and Indigenous cultural heritage work, is this funding designed to help complement and extend those activities? What will it specifically fund?	Written
198	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001484	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office grant - assessment	Mr Hanlon said, at the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, that some of the milestones of the grant agreement with the EDO are related to an online gateway assessment and overhaul and a consensus class reporting system. What is the specific nature of the work that is being undertaken in this context?	Written
199	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001482	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office grant - outreach	Mr Hanlon said, at the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, that one of the milestones of the grant agreement with the EDO is based on outreach. In what form will the outreach be provided?	Written

					At whom, specifically, will this outreach be targeted – and why?	
200	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001479	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office grant - Threatened species	Mr Hanlon said, at the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, that one of the milestones of the grant agreement with the EDO is related to a threatened species project. Is this a new threatened species project – or is this adding to existing threatened species work at the EDO? What will specifically be funded in relation to the threatened species element of the grant?	Written
201	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001418	Ross Cadell	Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of any modelling, forecasting, briefings or advice from the department regarding any increase or decrease in landfilling as a result of the implementation of the lower contamination percentage in the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023? 2. Please provide details of any communications between the department and any businesses or industry or trade association groups about concerns relating to the increase of landfilling once the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 legislation is implemented? 3. Please provide an estimated cost or expected actual cost, including to local government, as a result of the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 legislation being implemented? 4. How is the Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023 legislation expected to assist with landfill diversion and meeting the national waste targets set for 2030? How will this be taken into consideration? 5. Please provide an update on the implementation date of the 	Written

					Recycling and Waste Reduction (Export – Paper and Cardboard) Rules 2023. Is the implementation date on track for July 2024?	
202	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001391	Malcolm Roberts	Improvement, prohibition or penalty notices	<p>Please provide the numbers of improvement, prohibition or penalty notices issued to the Snowy 2.0 project by SafeWork NSW</p> <p>(a) Please provide the date, description and status of each safety notice.</p>	Written
203	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001404	Malcolm Roberts	Snowy Hydro business plan	<p>1. Please provide the business plan referred to at the estimates hearings on 23 October, with specific inclusion of the data/cashflow statement showing the NPV of the project is \$13bn.</p> <p>2. The NPV of \$13bn would appear to be a gross rather than net NPV. Even then it is improbable on an annual yield of 340,000</p>	Written

					Mw/h @ \$100 Mw/h over a 100 year useful life = \$3.4bn not \$13bn. Something is not adding up, please explain.	
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204	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001568	Ralph Babet	Wind Turbines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the expected useful life of the average wind turbine constructed in Australia? 2. During the useful life of a wind turbine, what parts need to be replaced and how frequently? 3. Is there a register held by the department of all wind turbine projects? Can you please provide a total number of all existing and all planned wind turbines in the country, broken down by state? 4. At the end of a wind turbine's useful life who enforces the requirement to return the site back to its original state? What maximum timeframe is provided for these works? 5. At the end of a wind turbine's useful life who is legally responsible for demolishing the wind turbine and returning the site to its original state? 6. Does the government hold a register of all agreements between renewable energy companies and landholders? If so, what percentage of current agreements place the responsibility for deconstruction and site clean-up on the landholder? 7. What period of time does the responsible party have to demolish the wind turbine and restore the site? 8. Should a direction to demolish and restore the site not be honoured, what process is undertaken by the relative authority? Do they have the power to force the sale of a property if wind turbines are not demolished by the required date? 	Written
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					<p>9. What does it cost on average to deconstruct a wind turbine entirely and return the site back to its original state? Can this cost exceed the revenue the wind turbine generates for a landholder during its useful life?</p> <p>10. We understand that in the case of a wind turbine in Queensland where the bed plate cracked, the cost was millions of dollars to take the turbine down with robots and explosives. Can you confirm what the total cost was in that case? Please advise how many other cases there have been where robots and explosives were required to demolish wind turbines?</p>	
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205	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001649	Bridget McKenzie	Renewable energy and transmission lines	<p>1. How many billions of agricultural export dollars a forecast to be lost as a result of land change required to accommodate renewable energy facilities and electrical transmission hardware?</p> <p>2. What is the projected value of electrical hardware imports to accommodate the government's planned expansion of renewable energy generation and transmission lines?</p> <p>a. What is the projected value of such imports from China, per year over the next seven years to 2030?</p>	Written
206	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001498	Hollie Hughes	Capacity Investment Scheme	<p>1. Can the Department confirm what modelling the Department or Treasury conducted to first determine if the Energy Security Board's preferred model for a capacity mechanism design was insufficient as to result in the Government replacing it with another?</p> <p>2. Did the Department provide advice at all to the government about the capacity mechanism and its design?</p> <p>3. In ignoring such advice from the ESB, isn't the government condemning Australian households and businesses to a disorderly transition and elevated high energy prices as the ESB warned? Or is it the Department's view also that the ESB was incorrect in its findings and recommendation of the previous Capacity Mechanism model?</p>	Written

207	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001434	Ross Cadell	Renaming of SnowyLink North and SnowyLink South	<p>1. Why were SnowyLink North and SnowyLink South renamed to HumeLink/Sydney Ring South and VNI West?</p> <p>2. Was this renaming process undertaken to conceal that HumeLink/Sydney Ring South and VNI West are only required because of the Snowy 2.0 project?</p> <p>3. What capacity will HumeLink/Sydney Ring South and VNI West operate at once Snowy 2.0 is fully operational?</p>	Written
208	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001389	Ross Cadell	Transmission Fires	<p>Through the Electricity Sector Climate Information (ESCI) project, there are climate risk assessments which include transmission infrastructure that could be damaged by wind speeds, and bushfires.</p> <p>1. Please outline how you undertake these assessments. Please provide detail of the assessment process, analysis undertaken and decision-making processes.</p> <p>2. Please provide, in detail, how these assessments inform on impacts to transmission lines? What analysis is undertaken as part of these assessments?</p> <p>3. Please advise whether the outcome of these assessments impacts the placement of transmission lines?</p> <p>4. What happens in instances of already existing transmission lines? What strategies are in place to manage this risk?</p> <p>5. Please provide details of any risk assessments regarding the transmission lines causing fires.</p> <p>6. Please provide details of any strategies in place to mitigate the</p>	Written

					risk of bushfires caused by the thousands of kilometres of additional wiring?	
209	Snowy Hydro Limited	SQ23-001390	Malcolm Roberts	Environmental notices or breaches	<p>Please provide how many environmental notices or breaches have been issued to the Snowy 2.0 project and/or its contractors</p> <p>(a) Please provide the date, description and status of each environmental notice/breach</p> <p>(b) How many safety breaches have been issued to the Snowy 2.0 project and/or its contractors by SafeWork NSW or any other workplace safety agency.</p>	Written

210	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001488	Jane Hume	Use of ChatGPT	<p>1. Does the department/agency allow for the use of ChatGPT on the internal network?</p> <p>2. If so, what risk management and governance mechanisms are in place to protect government data?</p> <p>3. Please provide the department/agency policy on use of artificial intelligence.</p>	Written
211	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001561	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous hunting of vulnerable species	Is the Federal or Queensland Government – or will it be – placing any new restrictions, in Queensland waters, on Indigenous hunting of vulnerable species such as dugongs?	Written
212	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001468	Jane Hume	New entities	<p>1. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been created within the portfolio since May 2022?</p> <p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was created.</p> <p>2. How many new entities (including advisory boards and agencies) have been wound up, amalgamated, ceased or disbanded since May 2022?</p> <p>Please list each entity, its purpose, and the date it was wound up, amalgamated, ceased, or disbanded.</p>	Written
213	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001430	Jane Hume	Promotional merchandise	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of the merchandise purchased with costs.</p> <p>3. Please provide examples and photographs of the merchandise purchased.</p>	Written

214	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001428	Jane Hume	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>1. What was the Department's/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in financial year 2023/24 to date?</p> <p>2. Please provide an itemised list of the campaigns, their purpose, and their expected costs.</p>	Written
215	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001400	Jane Hume	Departmental staff allocated to Minister's offices	<p>1. How many staff have been provided to Ministers offices not in a capacity as a Departmental Liaison Officer?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>3. Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</p>	Written
216	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001474	Jane Hume	Market research	<p>1. Has the department/agency provided any Minister's office with market research conducted in relation to a Commonwealth Information and Advertising Campaign?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list of the Ministers and the date on which they were provided the research.</p>	Written
217	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001415	Jane Hume	Commonwealth inter-departmental taskforces	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth taskforces of which the Department/agency has membership.</p> <p>2. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 2023.</p>	Written

218	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001514	Jonathon Duniam	Internal Audit	<p>1. How are the subject matters of internal audits at DCCEEW determined?</p> <p>2. How many internal audits are currently underway – and what are the subject matters being explored in each one of those audits?</p> <p>3. How many internal audits have been completed during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years – and what were the subject matters that were covered by each one of those audits?</p> <p>4. How many ASL are currently employed in DCCEEW's internal audit area?</p>	Written
219	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001439	Gerard Rennick	Temperature data	When is the Bureau going to inform university and CSIRO scientists of potential problems with the temperature data it has supplied, following the 2012 upgrade? (The increase in temperatures was reported by David Karoly and Sophie Lewis, for example, as due to greenhouse gases when it may at least in part have been due to changes in the power supply to the AWS network.)	Written
220	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001438	Gerard Rennick	Remote locations with temperature drops	Can the Bureau confirm the number of remote locations where temperatures have dropped by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius on the hour, at the same time every hour through the night, as the battery is drained with each satellite upload of temperature data?	Written
221	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001396	Ross Cadell	Threatened Species Main Index	1. The DCCEEW 2022/23 Annual Report indicates that the Department failed to meet the KPI EN02: Stability or improvement in the Threatened Species Main Index. What actions do the Department need to take to ensure that this KPI is met in the future?	Written

222	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001388	Barbara Pocock	Communications - BoM and consultants	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please provide all communications between BoM and its consultants (eg Deloittes, Accenture, Unisys and Leidos) over the Robust scheme;2. Please provide all communications between BoM and the Robust consulting partners, including over their performance against contract.3. Please provide all communications within BoM about penalties for non-performance by consulting partners (and why clauses for non-performance were not enforced).	Written
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223	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001387	Barbara Pocock	Forecasters	<p>1. How many forecasters have been transferred into bushfire duties for the coming summer? How many forecasters have been tapped from Singapore, the Philippines, the UK and elsewhere? How can you ensure the standards of bushfire and other forecasting can be maintained given these transfers and also overseas outsourcing?</p> <p>It was reported last year that a shortage of forecasters was impacting service quality, especially during extreme events. Given the risk of an above-average fire season this summer, can you comment on whether the issues that were reported last year have been addressed?</p> <p>2. What is the average years of experience for severe weather forecasters at PO2 and EL1 levels?</p> <p>3. Is overtime being regularly used to cover rosters?</p> <p>4. Are leave restrictions currently in place?</p> <p>5. What measures are being taken to deal with workload fatigue and stress as reported via CARES?</p> <p>6. Are forecasters able to access to their (unpaid) breaks on shift?</p> <p>7. Is the ASL cap contributing to a shortage of severe weather forecasters?</p>	Written
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224	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001386	Barbara Pocock	ROBUST program	<p>Tender documents from?https://www.tenders.gov.au/senateorder/list, show the Bureau procured \$978 million in contracts for the 2022 calendar year.?</p> <p>1. Can you tell us how much of this spending is attributable to the ROBUST program?</p> <p>Based on information that has been made public, the following contracts form part of the ROBUST program:</p> <p>CN3623750 -?awarded to?Accenture in 2019 for Channels Platform, Workstream 2 of ROBUST. Originally this was a \$30 million dollar contact. It has now been amended seven times and is now worth \$58 million dollars and has been extended to July 2025.</p> <p>CN3621079 - awarded to Deloitte in 2019 for "Components for information technology or broadcasting or telecommunications". It was reported this contract was primarily for delivery of the new Bureau website. This was originally an \$11 million dollar contract. It has now been amended nine times and is now worth \$35 million dollars and has been extended to June 2024.</p> <p>2: What if any penalties were imposed on the two consultancies for the cost blow-outs and delays? If there were no penalties, why weren't there any?</p> <p>The Bureau website underwent Beta testing in early 2022 :?https://www.transparency.gov.au/annual-reports/bureau-meteorology/reporting-year/2021-22-9 . As yet, there is no commitment from the Bureau when it will switch over to the new website.</p> <p>3: What is the hold-up and when will the new website be switched on?</p> <p>The supercomputer Australis II "will be commissioned during 2020–21 and will take over production work from the existing</p>	Written
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					<p>Australis system"?from?https://www.transparency.gov.au/annual-reports/bureau-meteorology/reporting-year/2019-20-11 . ?While Australis II was physically delivered to the Bureau according to the following annual report?https://www.transparency.gov.au/annual-reports/bureau-meteorology/reporting-year/2020-21-9?, it is still yet to be operational.?</p> <p>From the 2020-21 annual report : "This project is coming to an end, with the commissioning of the upgraded system doubling the computing power and storage of the Bureau's high-performance computing capability. The new supercomputing environment integrates with strengthened ancillary systems and enterprise services delivered through the ROBUST Program."</p> <p>4. Given the two largest components of the ROBUST project (website and upgraded computing facilities) are running years behind schedule, and with no firm date as yet scheduled for their delivery, can you explain why the contracts for Deloitte and Accenture have been extended in time, and inflated in price?</p>	
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225	Australian Institute of Marine Science	SQ23-001380	Susan McDonald	Marine Science funding	1. Marine Science - What is the progress of the \$163.4 million to secure the future of Australia's Marine Science, including the \$88.1 million plus \$29.7 million per year allocated over four years to the Australian Institute of Marine Science? For how long will \$29.7 million per year be allocated to AIMS?	Written
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226	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001377	Nick McKim	Swift Parrot Recovery Plan	<p>1. Is the Government/Department aware of ANU research predicting there will be fewer than 100 individual Swift Parrots left by 2031 as the rate of decline in population grows faster?</p> <p>2. Does the Government/Department acknowledge that native forest logging is a key driver of population decline in this species?</p> <p>3. The Threatened Species Action Plan lists the Swift Parrot as one of 22 priority birds and the DCCEEW Swift Parrot Website lists under 'Priority Actions' "Prevent any further loss of breeding habitat in Tasmania"¹ and under 'Key Threats' lists, "habitat loss from forestry", does the Government stand by the information published on this website?</p> <p>a. If yes, will the Government seek to alter Tasmania's Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) so that it is no longer exempt from national environmental laws?</p> <p>4. Has the Department recommended to the Minister that RFA's should be no longer exempt from national environmental laws? Will new reforms require RFAs between the Government and states to comply with national environmental laws? If yes, when will this reform be fully implemented?</p> <p>5. Following National Threatened Species Day on 7th of September this year when the Minister announced the release of a new Recovery Plan to boost the long-term survival</p>	Written
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					<p>of the critically endangered Swift Parrot², it was reported that members of the Swift Parrot Recovery Team had not even seen it until it was showed to them by Journalists.</p> <p>a. Is this correct?</p> <p>i. If this is correct, why did the Recovery Team not see the new Plan until after journalists did?</p> <p>ii. Why was the new Recovery Plan announced to journalists before all jurisdictions had provided their advice to the Department on the new plan?</p> <p>6. Does the Department need to wait for advice from all other jurisdictions that may enter joint arrangements with the Commonwealth before proceeding with the process that will result in the publication of the Swift Parrot Recovery Plan?</p>	
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227	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001376	Nick McKim	Bruny Island feral deer	1. Bruny Island is listed as one of the 6 priority islands in the federal government's Threatened Species Action Plan. The eradication of feral deer is possible on Bruny Island due to the currently low numbers, probably less than 200. Eradicating feral deer on Bruny Island will help ameliorate environmental harms but cannot be completed without funding support. What will the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) do to ensure the threat of feral deer incursion is mitigated now while eradication is feasible and affordable?	Written
228	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001628	Sarah Hanson-Young	Alleged breach of EPBC Act – Gannet culling in Victoria	Is the Department making enquiries into an alleged breach of s 254 of the EPBC Act in Point Wilson?	Written
229	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001623	Sarah Hanson-Young	Environmental offsets audit	1. How far has the audit progressed? 2. When will results be made public? 3. Has the department commenced compliance or enforcement action in relation to any non-compliance yet (noting the Minister's media release indicates that the department was aware of examples of non-compliance before the "audit" commenced)?:	Written
230	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001610	Jonathon Duniam	DCCEEW involvement in performance reporting of RFAs	1. Is DCCEEW involved in making changes to the ways in which a State or States needs to report on their performance in administering their RFAs? 2. Have the relevant government officials in at least one State	Written

					recently been asked (unlike ever before) to provide an Outcomes Report as well as an Implementation Report?	
231	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001597	Peter Whish-Wilson	El Niño - the Bureau	<p>1. Now an El Niño has been declared, what type of processes does this involve for BOM, thinking specifically of interactions with other agencies such as GBRMPA, agriculture, marine parks? What type of information is provided for government agencies in the context of an El Niño declaration?</p> <p>2. Have there been specific requests from government agencies for data in respect of the El Niño declaration? If so, please list the agencies.</p> <p>3. Which temperature records in Australia have been broken since the last Estimates in May 2023?</p>	Written
232	Australian Institute of Marine Science	SQ23-001580	Jonathon Duniam	AIMS' lab and office fitout	<p>1. As part of the answer to Question on Notice SQ23-001027, it was stated that works on the refurbishing of AIMS' lab and office facilities "will commence following a tender process that will commence in mid-2023". When did that tender process commence, and by what date will it now be completed?</p> <p>2. If the tender process has been delayed, what are the reasons that this has occurred?</p> <p>3. Has the scope, and/or funding for, the refurbishment project changed since it was first announced? If so, what are the specific details of each of these changes?</p>	Written

233	Australian Institute of Marine Science	SQ23-001578	Jonathon Duniam	Run-off from agricultural land	Is it fair to conclude, from the information in each of the last two editions of AIMS' Great Barrier Reef Long-Term Monitoring Program data, that the run-off from agricultural land has not been having a worsening impact on the Reef over those two years?	Written
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234	Bureau of Meteorology	SQ23-001576	Ralph Babet	Homogenisation of temperature data	<p>1. What can you tell us about the homogenisation of temperature data performed recently by the Bureau of Meteorology?</p> <p>a. How much of it has been carried out and what has happened to historical temperatures?</p> <p>2. Why is homogenisation necessary?</p> <p>a. What does it achieve?</p> <p>3. Research has shown that homogenisation of weather data in Amberley, Queensland changed the weather trend over 100 years from a cooling of 1 degree to a warming of 2.5 degrees. Can you shed any light on this particular instance of homogenisation and why it achieved the result it did?</p> <p>4. Forty years of data in Bourke, NSW was deleted because the information wasn't collected using standard equipment. This also changed a cooling trend into a warming trend. Is this appropriate scientific method and if so why?</p> <p>5. Is all homogenisation documented and audited at all sites where it is carried out? If so, can your department provide documentation of this?</p> <p>6. What has been the overall national temperature change in Australia as a result of homogenisation?</p> <p>a. What has happened to the historical trend over time?</p> <p>b. Have the national average temperatures year-on-year gone up or down since homogenisation was carried out?</p> <p>7. Is homogenised data adequately labelled or referenced so that</p>	Written
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					people interpreting the data are aware they are using homogenised data rather than raw data?	
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235	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001540	James McGrath	Prawn fishing ban	Has the Department investigated the feasibility of imposing restrictions or increasing regulations on the prawn industry since June 2022? Please table all findings to date.	Written
236	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001522	Jonathon Duniam	Costs relating to replacement of environmental laws	Please provide any updates, since the time of this year's Budget, about the projected costs over the forward estimates of any other work or activity associated directly or indirectly with Labor's replacement of the current national environmental laws.	Written
237	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001477	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications received by portfolio Ministers	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications have been received by the Minister's office since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. the number of applications by Minister,</p> <p>b. the number of applications that are yet to be decided;</p> <p>c. the number of applications refused; and</p> <p>d. the number of applications overdue, including the number of days overdue.</p>	Written
238	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001648	Mehreen Faruqi	Actions to prevent harm caused to seals associated with the salmon farming industry	<p>1. What actions has the government taken within its federal jurisdiction, and what dates did it take each of these actions, to prevent harm caused to seals associated with the salmon farming industry, including harm to seals caused by:</p> <p>a. underwater explosives,</p> <p>b. shooting of seals, and</p> <p>c. entrapment of seals?</p>	Written

239	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001603	Jonathon Duniam	Discontinued funding for Environment measures	Please list each one of the measures in the Environment component of DCCEEW's portfolio for which funding has been discontinued or terminated since 1 June 2022.	Written
240	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001587	Jonathon Duniam	Scientific Consensus Statement	In relation to the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, has the Scientific Consensus Statement been completed yet? If not, by what date(s) will it be finalised and publicly released?	Written
241	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001583	Peter Whish-Wilson	El Niño and coral	<p>1. What actions is DCCEEW taking in response to the AIMS Annual Summary Report of the Great Barrier Reef Coral Reef Condition 2022/2023, noting that an El Niño has now been declared by BOM?</p> <p>2. What information has DCCEEW sought from AIMS, BOM or other relevant agencies about temperature forecasts for the Reef over the summer months?</p> <p>3. How do increased temperatures, particularly under El Niño, affect the ability of blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, to store carbon?</p>	Written

242	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001581	Peter Whish-Wilson	Giant Kelp	<p>1. The conservation advice for the Giant Kelp remains over a decade old. What progress is being made to updating the conservation advice?</p> <p>2. The last time I asked about this in Estimates, there were references to different programs such as the National Environmental Science Program and the Saving Native Species Program. I was also told that the Department hadn't identified the projects that would go forward for priority places. Please provide an update on these programs. How much funding is being put towards these projects?</p> <p>3. What involvement has the Department had with regard to the new project announced by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on 10th July 2023, involving Giant Kelp restoration, in partnership is between TNC, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, Natural Resource Management South and the CSIRO?</p> <p>4. In May this year, Minister Plibersek referenced kelp as being a potential material for alternative plastics and talked about funding from the National Reconstruction Fund. What work is currently being undertaken to look at kelp as a potential material, and what funding is being directed towards that research?</p>	Written
243	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001560	Jonathon Duniam	Fishing net bans around the Gulf of Carpentaria	<p>What is the Federal Government's position on the potential imposition of additional, widescale fishing net bans around the Gulf of Carpentaria? Will you allow the Queensland Government to proceed with these, or will you seek to intervene – and, if so, when and how?</p>	Written

244	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001544	Jonathon Duniam	30x30 protection target	<p>1. What numerical progress has been made, since mid-2022, on increasing the land-based percentage of the 30x30 target?</p> <p>2. How many hectares of land have been cleared, in total, in Australia since mid-2022?</p> <p>3. How much funding, over the forward estimates, is currently being allocated to achieve the 30x30 protection target, disaggregated by terrestrial and marine? How has this changed since the time of the delivery of the Albanese Government's first Budget, in October 2022?</p>	Written
245	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001541	Jonathon Duniam	Disposal of wind turbines and solar panels	<p>Has Ms Plibersek taken, or at least initiated, any practical actions as Environment Minister to change the arrangements for the disposal of wind turbines and solar panels? If so, what have they been – and when did she take these actions?</p>	Written

246	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001529	Mehreen Faruqi	Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora datasets	<p>1. As the Department has primary responsibility for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), can the Department explain why datasets accessible through the CITES website:</p> <p>(a) do not have complete information about the countries where products are exported to or imported from</p> <p>(b) are not the same as datasets emailed to Australian researchers on request</p> <p>(c) do not use agreed trade terms for the products being imported and exported by different countries (for example, the term "small leather goods" is used, but does not differentiate between small leather products such as leather belts, bags or shoes)</p> <p>(d) do not use a standard unit of measure for the trade terms for each product imported and exported (for example, weight in kilograms)</p> <p>2. What actions are being taken by the Department to address issues with the CITES datasets?</p>	Written
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247	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001528	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous-focused branches at DCCEEW	<p>From the answers given at the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, it appeared that there are now at least three Indigenous-focused branches at the Department. These seemed to be a First Nations Branch, a First Nations Heritage Branch, and an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Branch.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is that correct? Or are there more or less Indigenous-centric branches? 2. The Secretary also indicated there is a Clean Energy First Nations Task Force. Are there any additional Indigenous-specific task forces, groups, committees, advisory bodies and the like – and, if so, please list the names of each one of these? 3. For each of those Branches, task forces, groups and any other Indigenous-specific elements within and/or advising the Department, please specify the ASL, their key areas of focus, and their KPIs. 4. Which Branch or group is responsible for the Department's work on the National Environmental Standard for First Nations engagement and participation in decision making? 	Written
248	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001527	Jonathon Duniam	First nations resolution or mediation procedures and processes	Does DCCEEW and/or Minister Plibersek follow very specific resolution or mediation procedures and processes when different Indigenous groups have divergent views about the environmental impact of an industrial project in their area? And, if so, what are they?	Written

249	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001454	Jane Hume	Reviews completed	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency has completed since 1 July 2022.</p> <p>Please provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent; g. the date the review was due to be completed; h. the date the review was completed; i. the date the review was provided to the Department; j. the date the review was provided to the Minister; and k. the date the review was provided to the Minister's office. 	Written
250	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001452	Jane Hume	Reviews being conducted	<p>1. Please provide a list of the number of reviews that the department/agency is currently conducting.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the name of the review; b. the purpose of the review; c. the name or names of the reviewer(s); d. the remuneration for each of the reviewer(s); e. the budgeted cost of the review; f. the amount spent to date; and g. the date the review is due to be completed. 	Written

251	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001375	Nick McKim	UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration	<p>1. Has Australia prepared a nomination flagship project for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration?</p> <p>a. If yes, what is the project?</p> <p>b. If not, why not?</p>	Written
252	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001297	Tammy Tyrrell	National native vegetation monitoring and early detection systems	Please provide detail of the budget allocated for national native vegetation monitoring and early detection systems to help improve compliance and enforcement under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.	Written
253	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001510	Jonathon Duniam	Minister office ICT spending	<p>In the answer to Question on Notice SQ22-000619, was a lower figure quoted than was accurate for ICT spending for the offices of Mr Bowen, Ms Plibersek and Ms McAllister during the period from the election of the Albanese Government up to 30 September 2022?</p> <p>If so: why, and what was the correct, total figure for the ICT spending for that period?</p> <p>If not: given the subsequent answer to Question on Notice SQ23-000853, does that mean that, for the offices of these three frontbenchers, ICT spending was at least \$589,289 just for the eight months between September 2022 and May 2023 alone? And isn't that especially strange given that Mr Hanlon said at the Estimates hearing of 22 May 2023 that this spending wouldn't "increase by a huge amount"?</p>	Written

254	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001407	Jane Hume	Number of briefs provided to each portfolio Minister	<p>1. How many briefs has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the date of the first provided brief.</p> <p>3. How many briefs have been returned to the Department for redraft?</p> <p>4. Please provide a list with the number of briefs for each Minister, and the dates of the return of briefs to the Department.</p>	Written
255	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001512	Jonathon Duniam	DCCEEW ICT transition costs	<p>In the 'Secretary's Review' in the DCCEEW Annual Report of 2022-23, it says that the Department "will transition to new systems, including establishing ICT services that can meet the needs of our growing organisation". In relation to that comment:</p> <p>(a) what has been the total cost, to date, of the transition to these new systems and also specifically of the establishment and provision of the new ICT services?</p> <p>(b) what is the full, final expected cost the transition to these new systems and also specifically of the establishment and provision of the new ICT services?</p>	Written
256	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001513	Jonathon Duniam	State offices	<p>1. For each of the DCCEEW State offices that has been opened since 1 June 2022, what is currently the total projected cost, over each of the years of forward estimates, of their operation?</p> <p>2. Is DCCEEW planning to open more offices? If so, and for each such case:</p> <p>(a) at what location;</p> <p>(b) from what date will they be established; and</p> <p>(c) what will be the total cost of their operation, for each of the years of the forward estimates?</p>	Written

257	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001511	Jonathon Duniam	MO ICT spending - totals	<p>1. Which of the offices of Mr Bowen, Ms Plibersek and Ms McAllister has spent the most money on ICT and associated equipment – and what is the most up-to-date total figure for that individual office's spending on ICT and associated equipment?</p> <p>2. What is the most up-to-date total figure for spending on ICT and associated equipment by these three frontbenchers' offices combined?</p>	Written
258	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001483	Jane Hume	Movement of funds	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest movements of funds in the most recent financial year, including a profile of the forward estimates for the impact of the movement.</p>	Written
259	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001480	Jane Hume	Ten largest estimate variations	<p>1. For the portfolio, please provide a list of the ten largest estimate variations in the most recent financial year.</p>	Written
260	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001420	Jane Hume	Functions and official receptions hosted by portfolio Ministers and Assistant Minister	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in financial year 2023/24 to date, please provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of functions; List of attendees; Function venue; Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); Details of any food served; Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written

261	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001414	Jane Hume	List of inter-departmental committees	<p>1. Please provide a list of all the Commonwealth inter-departmental committees of which the Department/agency has membership.</p> <p>2. Please specify where there are changes to the list since May 2023.</p>	Written
262	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001463	Jane Hume	Interdepartmental committees	<p>1. Please provide a list of the interdepartmental committees that the department/agency participates in or provides representation to.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the name of the interdepartmental committee; a list of the membership; the date it was established; and its purpose. 	Written
263	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001475	Jane Hume	Freedom of Information applications	<p>1. How many freedom of information applications has the department/agency received since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of the number including;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the number of applications withdrawn; the number of applications refused under section 34 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; the number of applications refused under section 24 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; the number of applications refused under section 24A of the Freedom of Information Act 1982; the number of applications subject to internal review; the number of applications subject to review by the OAIC; the number of applications subject to review by the AAT; the number of applications subject to review by the Federal 	Written

					<p>Court; and</p> <p>i. the number of applications where the original decision has been overturned.</p>	
264	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001441	Hollie Hughes	Travel	<p>1. How much has the department spent on travel this financial year?</p> <p>2. Were they domestic or international?</p> <p>3. Could you please provide a list of the flights undertaken, including;</p> <p>(a) Dates of travel</p> <p>(b) Nights spent at each location</p> <p>(c) Reason for travel</p> <p>(d) Cost of each trip</p> <p>(e) Number of staff on each trip and APS level?</p>	Written
265	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001394	Ross Cadell	Decline in DCCEEW revenue from contracts with customers	<p>1. DCCEEW revenue from contracts with customers declined by approximately 71 per cent from 2022 to 2023. What are the causes of this precipitous decline?</p>	Written

266	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001442	Hollie Hughes	Cost of living pressures	What conversations have you had with the government in your role to assist with the reduction on cost of living pressures on families?	Written
267	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001411	Jane Hume	New Policy Proposals provided to portfolio Ministers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many New Policy Proposals has the Department/agency provided to each Minister in its portfolio since 1 July 2023? 2. Please provide a list with the number of New Policy Proposals by Minister, and the date of the first provided New Policy Proposal. 	Written

268	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001457	Hollie Hughes	GEMS Act	<p>1. Has DCCEEW done any research of its own on the increase to consumer prices under the LED lamps MEPS proposal?</p> <p>2. What are those increases expected to be?</p> <p>3. Is the upcoming MEPS proposal on the work plan for LED luminaires expected to include similar registration costs and administrative burden on businesses, that could further increase consumer prices?</p> <p>4. Have options been explored to minimise the impact and burden on changes to lighting businesses, given the industry's landscape and its differences from other GEMS-regulated industries?</p> <p>5. Can we get an up-to-date cost benefit statement focused on LED regulation alone and excluding any benefits due to the agreed ban on halogen lamps? Note: The DCCEEW previously conflated the halogen ban and LED regulations – These should be separated.</p> <p>6. Does the department have plans to update its processes to accommodate larger numbers of products in its systems given the large range of LED products sold by suppliers?</p> <p>7. Will you accommodate these larger numbers by ensuring that rulings on individual products do not affect the compliance of entire product families?</p>	Written
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269	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001395	Jane Hume	Ministerial briefs - advice on minimum turnaround time	<p>Since 1 July 2023, has the Department/Agency been provided with advice or a direction on a minimum turnaround time for consideration of briefs by the Minister?</p> <p>If so, when was this advice provided to the Department?</p> <p>Please provide the minimum turnaround requirement.</p> <p>If there has been a change in a previously set minimum turnaround requirement, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the previous turnaround requirement; and 2. the date the change was requested. 	Written
270	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001403	Jane Hume	Secretary/agency head meetings with non-portfolio Ministers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with any Ministers not in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 2. Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister. 	Written
271	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001401	Jane Hume	Secretary/agency head meetings with portfolio Ministers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many meetings has the Secretary/agency head had with the Ministers in their portfolio since 1 July 2023? 2. Please provide a list with the number of meetings by Minister, and the date of the first meeting with each Minister. 	Written
272	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001490	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office - defence of Deanna Coco	<p>Has the Department made any enquiries of the EDO about its connections with, and defence of, Deanna Coco? If so, on what date(s) did this occur?</p>	Written

273	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001489	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental Defenders' Office - defence of Emil Davey	Since the Estimates hearing of 23 October 2023, has the Department made any enquiries of the EDO about its connections with, and defence of, Emil Davey? If so, on what date(s) did this occur?	Written
274	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001591	Jonathon Duniam	Changes to Antarctic funding	Since the two days of the Senate committee inquiry hearings into Antarctic funding, in Hobart on 4 and 5 October, what proactive steps (if any) has Ms Plibersek instigated in relation to any changes to Antarctic funding, including any restoration of the lost funding for this financial year?	Written
275	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001504	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental protests laws	In late 2022, the Greens indicated that they were likely to introduce a Private Senator's 'right to protest' Bill. In connection with that proposed Bill and/or for any other reason, has Ms Plibersek ever received formal advice from DCCEEW, or any other Department or agency, in relation to changing laws and/or penalties in respect of environmental protests? If yes: (a) on what date(s) did she seek such advice? (b) on what date(s) was such advice provided to her? (c) by whom was such advice provided to her?	Written
276	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001608	Jonathon Duniam	Application of the new national environmental laws and standards	How does the Albanese Government propose to apply the new national environmental laws and standards without impacting on the existing, highly sustainable approach to native forestry activity in Australia?	Written

277	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001604	Jonathon Duniam	Revisions to National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan	What are the timeframes for the revision to the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan?	Written
278	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001601	Peter Whish-Wilson	Future Fishing taskforce	1. Please provide all of the internal correspondence that led up to the development of the submissions presented by the Authority to the Future Fishing Taskforce as well as the submissions themselves.	Written
279	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001599	Peter Whish-Wilson	Marine protections in Great Barrier Reef	1. What consultation has been undertaken by AMSA in relation to renewal of the marine navigation network in the GBR marine park? 2. What involvement does GBRMPA have in respect of the North-East Shipping Management Plan and any review? 3. How does the Plan integrate with the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability plan?	Written
280	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001598	Peter Whish-Wilson	El Niño - GBRMPA	1. How is GBRMPA preparing for El Niño? 2. What work is currently being undertaken to monitor the condition of mangroves within the MPA area? Have any surveys been completed in the last 5 years? If so please provide details.	Written
281	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001586	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - GBRMPA involvement	1. On or around what date was the GBRMPA first made aware that the Albanese Government would be joining with the Queensland Government to impose a ban on the use of gillnets around the Great Barrier Reef region? 2. Was the GBRMPA asked by Ms Plibersek to provide any prior input or advice in relation to this ban on the N2 and N4 fishing nets and, if so, in what form and when? 3. Was any representative from the GBRMPA present at the July	Written

					2022 meeting between UNESCO representatives, Mr Albanese and Ms Plibersek in relation to the management of the Reef – and, if so, who?	
282	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	SQ23-001551	Jonathon Duniam	Ministerial responsibilities related to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	What are Ms Plibersek's specific current responsibilities as a Minister (if any) in relation to the operation of commercial fisheries under the zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, made under the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975?	Written
283	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001530	Jonathon Duniam	Standard for First Nations engagement	What are the reasons that the Government's December 2022 promise that "a National Environmental Standard for First Nations engagement and participation in decision-making will be developed as a priority" was not honoured?	Written

284	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001626	Sarah Hanson-Young	Global methane pledge	<p>1. It has been a year since Australia signed onto the Global Methane Pledge. What steps have been taken to honour Australia's commitment to the Global Methane Pledge?</p> <p>2. Is Australia on track to reduce its methane emissions by 30% by 2030?</p> <p>3. Does the Department accept that a science-based target is a reduction of methane emissions by 75% by 2030?</p> <p>4. Has the Government considered a national methane target, specific to the fossil fuel industry, aligned to a 1.5 degree C pathway to drive real progress towards Australia's methane reduction commitments?</p> <p>5. Does the Department accept the assessment that Australia is underreporting its national methane emissions? Why / Why not?</p> <p>6. How can the Department be confident that it will meet its methane commitments if we are not clear on how much methane we are emitting?</p> <p>7. How would improved measurement of methane affect the government's emissions targets?</p> <p>8. How would improved measurement affect safeguard mechanism baselines and reported emissions?</p>	Written
285	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001496	Jane Hume	YES Campaign questions - Assistant Minister McAllister	<p>It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.</p> <p>1. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign?</p> <p>2. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or</p>	Written

					encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions?	
286	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001382	Susan McDonald	\$150 million for First Nations water infrastructure	1. Water – What is the progress of the \$150 million to improve water security for regional and remote indigenous communities through the National Water Grid Fund? Is this \$150 million for regional and remote throughout Australia, or is this amount specifically for Northern Australia?	Written
287	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001518	Jonathon Duniam	Standards Working Group & Reference Group meetings	1. When did the 'Standards Working Group Member Organisation' representatives last meet? When they last met, was that group in full agreement on the proposed new laws and standards? 2. When did the 'Reference Group Member Organisation' representatives last meet? When they last met, was that group in full agreement on the proposed new laws and standards? 3. Will either of these groups be brought together for meetings again – and, if so, when?	Written
288	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001566	Jonathon Duniam	Australia's threatened species and extinctions list	Since the start of June 2022, how many plant and animal species have been added to Australia's threatened species and extinctions lists, and how many have been removed from them?	Written

289	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001625	Sarah Hanson-Young	Threat abatement plan for Loss of Climatic Habitat Caused by Loss of Climatic Habitat Caused by Anthropogenic Emissions of Greenhouse Gases	<p>1. Has the review been completed?</p> <p>2. What is the TSSC's advice?</p> <p>3. When will it be released?/Why has it not been released already?</p>	Written
290	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001436	Gerard Rennick	Epoxy resins on wind turbines	<p>Are epoxy resins used to coat wind turbine blades? Yes or no?</p> <p>Given wind turbine blades are manufactured overseas how does the Federal government ensure no turbine blades contain Bisphenol A inside the epoxy resins?</p>	Written
291	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001517	Jonathon Duniam	Environmental legislation	<p>In the Albanese Government's formal response to the Samuel Review, released on 8 December 2022, it was stated that "a package of new national environmental legislation will be prepared in the first six months of 2023". By what date did it first become apparent to the Department that this promise would be broken?</p> <p>In that document released on 8 December 2022, it also said that "the legislation will be released as an exposure draft prior to being introduced into the Parliament before the end of 2023". By what date(s) did it first become apparent to the Department that each of these two promises would be broken?</p>	Written

292	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001486	Jane Hume	Flexible work arrangements	<p>1. How many staff have a flexible work arrangement in place that enables them to work from home?</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown including;</p> <p>a. The proportion of staff who work from home one day a week?</p> <p>b. The proportion of staff who work from home two days a week?</p> <p>c. The proportion of staff who work from home three days a week?</p> <p>d. The proportion of staff who work from home four days a week?</p> <p>e. The proportion of staff who work from home five days a week?</p> <p>f. What is the annual cost of renting out office space for employees?</p> <p>g. Please provide a copy of the department/agency's work from home policy.</p>	Written
293	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001449	Jane Hume	Fair Work Commission	<p>In relation to the department/agency:</p> <p>1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to the Fair Work Commission?</p> <p>2. Of those matters referred to either, please provide a comprehensive account of the circumstances, redacting confidential information, including in which division the employee is or was employed, the nature of the complaint and the nature of the determination of the Fair Work Commission, Fair Work Ombudsman and/or conciliator.</p>	Written

294	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001447	Jane Hume	Comcare	In relation to department/agency: 1. In the current financial year to date, how many matters have been referred to Comcare? 2. Of those claims referred to Comcare, redacting confidential information, advise in which division the claimant works or worked and the circumstances surrounding the claim. 3. What has the Department/agency learned from past Comcare claims? 4. Of those employees who submitted a Comcare claim, how many returned to work after a period of absence?	Written
295	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001573	Ralph Babet	Measurement of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1. How are Australian green house gas emissions measured? 2. Who performs this function? 3. What is the frequency? 4. What is the reporting interval? 5. Does Australia report its total GHG emissions to an international agency? 6. What percentage of total global greenhouse gas emissions are attributed to Australia? 7. Is sequestration of carbon by native forest and arid landscapes included in Australia's carbon emissions calculations? Is all sequestration from natural sources included to offset emissions?	Written
296	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001547	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - Metting with UNESCO	Was any member of the Palaszczuk Government and/or the Queensland public service present at the meeting between UNESCO, Mr Albanese and Ms Plibersek in Paris in July 2022? If so, whom – and on what basis?	Written

297	Director of National Parks	SQ23-001569	Jonathon Duniam	South-east Marine Parks	<p>1. By what date will the South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan Review be completed?</p> <p>2. During its existence, has the area covered by the South-east Marine Parks Network experienced relatively low levels of disturbance?</p> <p>3. Has either Minister Plibersek or Minister Watt ever specifically asked or advised you to factor into your deliberations on Marine Park reviews the extent to which Australian fishers are facing increasing regulations and pressures from other recent changes and issues?</p>	Written
298	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001584	Jonathon Duniam	UNESCO requests for information	Has the UNESCO World Heritage Committee sought, from the GBRMPA (or, to your knowledge, anyone else across the Federal or Queensland governments), detailed evidence and research about declines in particular species' populations in the Great Barrier Reef area over recent years? If so, when did they most recently seek that information and from whom?	Written
299	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001383	Susan McDonald	Improvement of water security in Northern Australia	1. Water - Is there a budget allocation to improve water security in Northern Australia in non-indigenous communities?	Written
300	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001385	Susan McDonald	Funding to deliver essential services to Mutitjulu	1. Water – What is the progress of the \$92.8 million and \$0.7 million per year to provide water, sewerage and electricity for the Mutitjulu community? Where is the Mutitjulu community? Are similar amounts allocated to other indigenous communities throughout Northern Australia? If so, which communities? If not, why not?	Written

301	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001384	Susan McDonald	Hughenden water project and other significant water projects in Northern Australia	1. Water – Given the Office of Northern Australia coordination across departments, are you able to provide an update on the progress of the Hughenden water project and any other significant water projects in Northern Australia?	Written
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302	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001478	Jonathon Duniam	Grants Environmental Defenders' Office (EDO)	<p>1. On what date was the Department's first discussion with the Environmental Defenders' Office (EDO) in respect of the purpose (or potential purpose) of the funding that was ultimately allocated to it in the Federal Budget of October 2022?</p> <p>2. On what date was the Department's first discussion with the EDO on the amount of the grant?</p> <p>3. Is the Department and/or Government now able to answer how it was specifically decided that the amount of the grant should be \$8.3 million – and who made this decision, and when?</p> <p>4. How were the amounts to be paid to the EDO over each of the years of the forward estimates calculated? Was this purely on the basis of spreading out the amounts over each of the relevant years at approximately equal shares, or was another type of calculation used?</p> <p>5. What is the final date by which all of the activities funded through the grant must be completed?</p> <p>6. If these activities are not all completed by that date, will the funding be extended into future financial years or will it be discontinued?</p> <p>7. If it proves that the amount of the grant is not sufficient to complete all of the activities as currently envisaged, would the amount be increased?</p> <p>8. Is any of the grant funding being allocated to the recruitment, and/or employment, of new staff for the EDO? If so:</p>	Written
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					<p>(a) how much money is being spent to each of these ends? (b) how many new staff are being recruited? (c) over what period of time will they be employed? (d) on what tasks will they specifically be working?</p>	
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303	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001367	David Pocock	Contract notice CN3896055	<p>In relation to Contract Notice CN3896055, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of the work included in the contract • Any changes to the scope of work made as part of the amended contract (CN3896055-A1) • The deliverables outlined in the contract and in the variation to the contract • Any performance measures associated with the contract • Any conflicts of interest declared by Boston Consulting Group in its response to the tender • Steps the Department took to manage any conflicts of interest that were declared • The Department's reasons for increasing the total value of the contract from an initial \$80,000 to \$277,140 	Written
304	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001571	Ralph Babet	Nuclear Energy	<p>1. Australia is spending \$1.5 trillion in Australia on its renewable energy transition by 2030 according to the latest Net Zero Australia report and 7 to 9 trillion by 2060. Arguments against nuclear have stated that it is too costly, but projections of the costs of nuclear reactors in Australia are significantly less than 7 to 9 trillion dollars. Therefore, with respect to the prohibition of nuclear energy, the reasons can't be waste management, or cost. What is the reason for continuing to prohibit nuclear energy plants in Australia?</p> <p>2. Nuclear is reported to last much longer than wind and solar, with plants in America averaging 40 years old and showing no signs of slowing down. Newer plants are estimated to be even better. If we look at a 50 year time span for example, what is the net cost comparison between nuclear and wind & solar, over that 50 year period?</p> <p>a. Does this cost comparison factor in in the disposal costs of the</p>	Written

					first round of wind and solar, and the construction of the second round of these items?	
305	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001609	Bridget McKenzie	Carbon abatement plans	1. What role do you envisage for nuclear energy in your carbon abatement plans, considering many countries worldwide are turning to this abundant energy supply to meet their CO2 reduction obligations.	Written

306	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001508	Hollie Hughes	Rewiring the Nation and Household Energy Upgrades Fund	<p>1. How much of Labor's promised \$20 billion has been spent or committed to;</p> <p>(a) Rewiring the Nation?</p> <p>(b) On the Household Energy Upgrades Fund.</p> <p>2. So if these projects continue to blow out, is the CEFC on the hook for additional top up funding?</p> <p>3. What is the ceiling price that the CEFC is willing to accept for the transmission projects it is seeking to invest in before it withdraws support?</p> <p>4. Are you saying then, that these transmission projects can just continue to spiral out of control and the government will continue investing in them?</p> <p>5. What about the cost of living crisis we are now living through? This will only make things worse and more expensive for people right?</p> <p>6. Can you update us on the status of the Rewiring the Nation project?</p> <p>7. When is the completion date expected for?</p> <p>8. How many kilometres of transmission lines have been installed?</p> <p>9. How many kilometres remain?</p> <p>10. Has there been resistance from communities?</p> <p>11. What were their concerns?</p> <p>12. How were these concerns alleviated, if they were in fact alleviated?</p>	Written
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307	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	SQ23-001505	Hollie Hughes	Funding for Climate Projects	<p>1. Why has the Clean Energy Finance Corporation provided Macquarie Bank in excess of \$100 million for supposed climate enhancement? What criteria were applied to justify this funding?</p> <p>2. Why are financiers teaching farmers how to do their job?</p> <p>3. Is there a directive or expectation to invest in any agribusinesses? If not, why not?</p> <p>4. What criteria do those agribusinesses have to meet to be eligible for financing?</p>	Written
308	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001406	Ross Cadell	Road user charges	<p>1. After the High Court deemed state-imposed charges on electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle owners unconstitutional, what steps have been taken to explore a national user charge under Commonwealth jurisdiction? Please outline.</p> <p>2. If the implementation of an EV user charge were to be avoided, and the goal of having 80-90% of new vehicles as EVs were to be attained, what would be the resulting impact on Commonwealth Revenue?</p> <p>3. If a Commonwealth charge were to be introduced, would it be applicable to Commonwealth-owned vehicles?</p>	Written

309	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001399	Ross Cadell	Data uptake of EV's in regional/rural areas	<p>1. Further to the response provided to QoN 838, the department advised that VFACTS can only provide data on a national level. A search of the VFACTS website shows that it is possible to provide this level of information. Has the department requested the information sought in QoN 838 from VFACTS?</p> <p>2. If it is believed that this specific data is not accessible, how is the department monitoring the adoption of Electric Vehicles in rural and regional areas across Australia?</p> <p>3. Please provide detail regarding the uptake of Electric Vehicles in Australia over the past 12 months, including number sold broken down by state, and uptake in regional Australia v metropolitan Australia also by state.</p>	Written
310	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001381	Susan McDonald	\$9.2 million for First Nations water rights	<p>1. Water – What is the progress on the \$9.2 million allocated to consult, design and arrange indigenous communities to own, access and manage water? Is this program throughout Australia, or is it specifically for Northern Australia?</p>	Written
311	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001532	Jonathon Duniam	Voice to Parliament taskforce	<p>1. Did the Department establish a dedicated taskforce to progress the Voice to Parliament (in the event it succeeded at the referendum)? Or was this work managed by the First Nations Branch, or one of the other Indigenous branches?</p> <p>2. Who was involved in the work within the Department to progress the Voice to Parliament (in the event it succeeded at the referendum)?</p> <p>3. What resources were allocated to this work?</p> <p>4. Has it been disbanded in light of the referendum result – and, if so, on what date was it disbanded? If it is yet to be disbanded, why not?</p>	Written

312	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001646	Jane Hume	Departmental Liaison Officers allocation	<p>1. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been allocated to each Minister in the portfolio?</p> <p>2. Please provide a list that outlines the level of the member of the department, the Minister they have been allocated to, and the time they have been allocated to the Minister.</p> <p>3. Please denote any change in this allocation since May 2023.</p>	Written
313	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001393	Ross Cadell	Foreign exchange losses	<p>1. How did DCCEEW accrue \$188,000 in foreign exchange losses?</p>	Written
314	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001397	Jane Hume	Hospitality in Ministers' offices	<p>1. Since 1 July 2023, has the Department provided any hospitality in Ministers' offices? Please specify the date, itemised cost, purpose, and attendees for the hospitality.</p> <p>2. Since 1 July 2023, have there been any amendments to the Department's policy on providing hospitality in the Ministers offices? If so, please provide a copy of the policy and a reference for the amendment.</p>	Written
315	Climate Change Authority	SQ23-001611	Bridget McKenzie	Carbon abatement plans	<p>1. What role do you envisage for nuclear energy in your carbon abatement plans, considering many counties worldwide are turning to this abundant energy supply to meet their CO2 reduction obligations?</p>	Written

316	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001523	Jonathon Duniam	Indigenous cultural heritage protection laws	<p>1. Is it true that the Second Options Paper on Indigenous cultural heritage protection law changes will not be finalised until sometime next year, even though it was originally meant to be completed by mid-2023? If so, what are the reasons for this long delay?</p> <p>2. Especially given the chaos provoked by the Western Australian Government's attempts to introduce new such laws, what certainty is the Department and/or Government currently able to give the people of Australia about whether the Albanese Government will implement Indigenous cultural heritage laws that have any similarities to the proposed Western Australian regime?</p> <p>3. From among all of the provisions included in the ultimately-aborted Western Australian laws, what has so far been ruled in and been ruled out of the Albanese Government's promised standalone Federal Indigenous cultural heritage protection laws?</p> <p>4. On what dates have there been formal meetings between the Department and the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance on Indigenous cultural heritage laws?</p>	Written
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317	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001402	Ross Cadell	Fuel Efficiency Standards	<p>1. Is it still the government's policy to release a Fuel Efficiency Standard by the end of 2023?</p> <p>a. Has a date been set?</p> <p>b. Will this be released as an exposure draft for stakeholder consultation?</p> <p>2. Has the Department provided the Government with a draft standard for its consideration?</p> <p>a. When was this provided?</p> <p>b. Does it recommend one of the options outlined in the Department's Regulatory Impact Statement (Better fuel for cleaner vehicles) – released in Nov 2022?</p> <p>c. Was the ministerial submission signed off by the minister, is it still sitting in his office or was it returned unsigned?</p> <p>d. If not, has the minister or the minister's office asked the Department to hold off providing the submission?</p> <p>e. Was it a joint submission to the Minister for Transport?</p> <p>3. According to the Draft Regulatory Impact Statement changes to fuel standards will have "cost impacts on Australia's petroleum refining industry". What are these cost impacts?</p> <p>4. The Regulatory Impact Statement confirms there will be a cost to Australian motorists under the Department's preferred option. What is the cost impact?</p> <p>5. Can you confirm that the total cost of Option 2 is \$216 million, while the benefits are only valued at \$20 million?</p>	Written
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318	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001526	Jonathon Duniam	Underwater cultural heritage	What is the current state of progress on the Government's proposed changes to underwater cultural heritage policy? And what are the next steps in this process, and on what dates will they be taken?	Written
319	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001520	Jonathon Duniam	EPA establishment	<p>1. By what date will Environment Protection Australia be established?</p> <p>2. Please outline whether and how the projected costs over the forward estimates of establishing and operating Environment Protection Australia have changed, since they were included as part of this year's Budget papers.</p>	Written
320	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001515	Jonathon Duniam	Heritage listing trade union buildings	<p>In recent weeks, Minister Pliibersek has announced that the Federal Government will pursue potential heritage listings of trade union buildings in Melbourne and Broken Hill. In relation to their nomination and/or potential heritage listings:</p> <p>(a) Will any kind of benefits, including financial benefits, be derived by the owners of these buildings and/or to the trade union movement from their heritage nominations and/or listing? If yes, please specify each of these benefits.</p> <p>(b) In relation to Federal Government funding of the heritage nominations of these two buildings, what is the exact amount that has been allocated; who has received this money; and for what specific purposes has it been, and is it meant to be, used?</p> <p>(c) How much has the Victorian Government spent in relation to the Melbourne heritage nomination and/or potential listing? And who has received, or will receive, this money; and for what specific purposes has it been, and is it meant to be, used?</p> <p>(d) How much has the New South Wales Government spent in relation to the Broken Hill heritage nomination and/or potential listing? And who has received, or will receive, this money; and for</p>	Written

					<p>what specific purposes has it been, and is it meant to be, used?</p> <p>(e) What specific processes and mechanisms have been established in order to ensure none of the Federal, Victorian and New South Wales governments' contributions are used for any other purposes?</p>	
321	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001562	Jonathon Duniam	Minister's meeting with Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Has Ms Plibersek finally attended a meeting with the full membership of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee – and, if so, on what date did the first such meeting occur?	Written

322	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001556	Jonathon Duniam	Gillnets - consultations	<p>1. What specific, formal consultations did Ms Plibersek and/or her staff conduct with commercial fishers prior to the Federal and Queensland governments' joint announcement on 5 June 2023 of the imposition of gillnet bans in Queensland? And on what date(s) did each of these consultations occur? <Please note that this question relates purely to Ms Plibersek and her staff, not to other individuals or bodies as was reflected in the answer to 3(a) of Question on Notice SQ23-001269.></p> <p>2. What specific, formal consultations did Ms Plibersek and/or her staff conduct with recreational fishers prior to the Federal and Queensland governments' joint announcement on 5 June 2023 of the imposition of gillnet bans in Queensland? And on what date(s) did each of these consultations occur? <Please note that this question relates purely to Ms Plibersek and her staff, not to other individuals or bodies as was reflected in the answer to 3(a) of Question on Notice SQ23-001269.></p>	Written
323	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001495	Jane Hume	YES Campaign questions - Minister Bowen	<p>It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.</p> <p>1. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign?</p> <p>2. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions?</p>	Written

324	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001524	Jonathon Duniam	Minister Plibersek's meetings with NFF	The Australian newspaper reported in late July that the National Farmers Federation said that farmers were "paralysed with fear" and uncertain "what they can do on their own land" because of WA's Aboriginal cultural heritage laws. How many times, specifically, has Ms Plibersek personally met with the NFF on what the Albanese Government is contemplating changing in Australia's Indigenous cultural heritage laws – and on what date(s)?	Written
325	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001494	Jane Hume	YES Campaign questions - Minister Plibersek	<p>It was reported in the The Age and Sydney Morning Herald by journalists Richard Baker, Nick McKenzie and Hannah Bowers that Mr Richard Pratt said that he had donated \$1 million to the Voice referendum's Yes campaign because he had fielded a request to do so from a senior adviser to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign prior to or during the course of the referendum campaign? 2. Have any personal staff in the Office of the Minister solicited or encouraged donations to the YES Campaign on the basis of policy decisions? 	Written

326	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001502	Hollie Hughes	Electric vehicles fires	<p>1. There are many instances all over the world, both anecdotal and recorded, of various electric vehicles catching fire, including occasions here in Australia. This government is investing heavily in EVs as the predominant form of transport in its Net-Zero world, how many EVs are expected to be on Australian roads by 2030?</p> <p>2. What is being done to support the uptake in regional communities? How is this being tracked?</p> <p>3. What is being done to both mitigate and manage the safety and health risks of chemical fires, as a result of EVs, lithium ion batteries and battery storage devices?</p> <p>4. Is there a method currently for extinguishing these sorts of fires? If so, what is it and what is the cost?</p> <p>5. If not, is it wise to invest or promote a technology as the primary transition source without proper mitigation tools and strategies in place?</p> <p>6. What requirements and management tools have, or will be employed when it comes to EV storage in apartment complexes and shopping precincts? For example, underground parking would surely be a major hazard and danger for tenants if a chemical fire is ignited underground, wouldn't it?</p> <p>7. Firies in the ACT have expressed concerns about the difficulties in containing fires as a result of various battery-powered vehicles including EVs, e-bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, electric motorbikes and electric trucks, as well as light rail vehicles and buses. Have you had consultations with any emergency services?</p>	Written
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					<p>(d) What is the government's plan than to incentivise uptake of EVs in regional areas? (not taking into account any policy which inherently disincentives the use of ICE vehicles.)</p>	
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327	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001612	Jonathon Duniam	Meetings with Felicity Wade	<p>1. On what date did Minister Plibersek and/or her staff last meet with Felicity Wade?</p> <p>2. Are the Minister and/or her staff now regularly meeting with Ms Wade, including in relation to the potential content of the new National Standards as they relate to forestry?</p>	Written
328	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001607	Jonathon Duniam	Proposed reforms to native forestry	<p>in a Guardian Australia article on 10 September 2023, this quote appeared from a Federal Government spokesperson:</p> <p>"The spokesperson said the government understood the environmental value of native forests and it was proposing reforms that would require regional forestry agreements between the federal government and states to comply with national environmental laws."</p> <p>What are these so-called reforms, specifically?</p>	Written
329	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001615	Dorinda Cox	A Way Forward Report Recommendations	<p>Recommendation 2 of the 'A Way Forward Report' states 'The Committee recommends that the Australian Government ratify the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003. The Government accepted this recommendation in its response to the report.</p> <p>1. Is there a timeline for this to occur?</p> <p>2. Why is the Government not pursuing this, and indeed all of these recommendations, as a matter of urgency?</p> <p>3. Can the department provide an update on progress of the other recommendations that it is responsible for?</p>	Written

330	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001614	Dorinda Cox	Underwater cultural heritage and Cultural Heritage Protection Federal Legislation	<p>1. Is there a timeline for when a draft bill for the Federal Cultural Heritage Protection for public consultation will be released?</p> <p>2. In the process of developing the legislation to protect First Nations cultural heritage, has the protection of underwater cultural heritage been discussed?</p> <p>3. Why is the Government not elevating the importance of underwater cultural heritage in the development of this bill?</p> <p>4. What definitions of underwater cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is the Government using in this process?</p> <p>5. There is an Australasian Underwater Cultural Heritage database, what are the criteria for eligibility?</p> <p>(a) Does Australia have any First Nations Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites in this database?</p> <p>(b) Do these criteria reflect the nature of First Nations Underwater Cultural Heritage, particularly intangible?</p> <p>(c) How can these be updated to be more inclusive for First Nations underwater cultural heritage?</p>	Written
331	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001606	Jonathon Duniam	Tasmanian native forestry industry	<p>Four days before the 2022 election, the now Prime Minister promised Tasmanians he would not shut down their native forestry industry. Yet, on a visit to Tasmania on 29 June this year, Ms Plibersek refused to directly answer a journalist's question on this issue. So, does Ms Plibersek support the Prime Minister's very clear pre-election policy – or does she support the views of the</p>	Written

					members of the more than 300 Labor branches seeking to terminate native forestry?	
332	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001605	Jonathon Duniam	Issues that impact both DCCEEW & DAFF	On fisheries and forestry issues, how is the demarcation between your Department, and Ministers, worked out in your interaction with DAFF and Minister Watt? How do you determine who is the lead Minister and Department on an issue that significantly overlaps both portfolios?	Written
333	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001435	Ross Cadell	EV charging infrastructure	<p>1. How many of the 117 charging locations are currently operational, and has NRMA reported any usage fluctuations during the trial period with charging fees in place?</p> <p>2. Who has the responsibility to maintain the charging infrastructure. Will ARENA provide the funding for ongoing maintenance, or is this the responsibility of NRMA?</p> <p>3. What is the estimated lifespan of these chargers?</p> <p>4. How many EV chargers will be required to meet the targets set out at a state level such as the ACT 80-90% new vehicle target?</p>	Written
334	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001372	Dorinda Cox	Leaking plugged and abandoned offshore wells	<p>1. How does Australia measure rogue methane emissions from leaking plugged and abandoned offshore wells?</p> <p>2. Without any direct measurement, how do you know how much methane and other hydrocarbons are leaking from the Santos Legendre well?</p> <p>3. What is the amount of methane and other hydrocarbon leakage from plugged and abandoned wells now?</p>	Written

335	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001503	Jonathon Duniam	Dennis Tipakalippa v Santos	<p>Has Ms Plibersek ever specifically sought formal advice from DCCEEW, or any other Department or agency, in relation specifically to the case mounted by Dennis Tipakalippa against the work of Santos on its Barossa oil and gas project in the Timor Sea?</p> <p>If yes:</p> <p>(a) on what date(s) did she seek such advice?</p> <p>(b) on what date(s) was such advice provided to her?</p> <p>(c) by whom was such advice provided to her?</p>	Written
336	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	SQ23-001613	Dorinda Cox	Murujuga	<p>1. Can the Minister please provide an update on the UNESCO World Heritage application for Murujuga?</p> <p>2. Has the application been accepted or rejected?</p> <p>(a) If neither, when can we expect to see a decision?</p> <p>If UNESCO has not accepted the nomination:</p> <p>3. Will the Minister state on what grounds UNESCO? has not accepted it?</p> <p>4. When is the earliest possible date when the application could be resubmitted according to UNESCO timelines?</p> <p>5. Is the Government confident that any changes that need to be made will not impact the projected timeline for approval?</p> <p>6. When can we expect to hear Minister Plibersek's response to the Section 10 investigation into Murujuga?</p>	Written

337	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	SQ23-001565	Jonathon Duniam	Nature Repair Bills	<p>1. Since appearing at the Senate committee inquiry hearing on 30 June 2023, has the TSSC become aware or been advised of any changes that the Government has made to their Nature Repair Bills in order to take account of the TSSC's evidence?</p> <p>2. Has the TSSC been made aware of when the Government intends to bring those Bills to the Senate?</p>	Written
338	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	SQ23-001564	Jonathon Duniam	Dugong deaths in Queensland	<p>1. Is the TSSC aware of any specific recent statistics that the current Federal Government and/or the current Queensland Government would likely have at their disposal about the numbers and causes of dugong deaths in Queensland? Alternatively, at around what sort of date was the last set of reliable, detailed figures on the numbers and causes of dugong deaths in Queensland produced?</p> <p>2. Across the reliable statistics that do exist from past years, do they show that Indigenous hunting, and natural causes and diseases, are clearly the highest contributors to dugong mortalities in Queensland?</p>	Written
339	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	SQ23-001563	Jonathon Duniam	Risks to threatened species from renewable energy	<p>Has Ms Plibersek or has Mr Bowen ever asked for your (TSSC) advice specifically on the potential risks to threatened species from the establishment and/or the operation of wind and solar energy projects? And, if so, when?</p>	Written