

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

Question No: N/A
Hearing: Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014
Outcome: N/A
Programme: Emissions Reduction Fund
Topic: Time taken to develop Carbon Farming Initiative methodologies
Hansard Page: 47
Question Date: 1 July 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator McEwen asked:

Senator McEwen: For the Department of the Environment, how many methodologies have been developed under the current CFI?

Ms Thompson: Currently we have 22 methodologies that are available for use under the Carbon Farming Initiative.

Senator McEwen: Do we know what the average time frame was for the development and approval of those?

Ms Thompson: I am sorry; I do not have that figure in front of me. We would need to take that on notice to get you an accurate answer.

Answer:

Of the 22 methodologies available for use under the Carbon Farming Initiative, the average timeframe for assessment and approval of the methodologies was approximately one year.

The Government has moved to significantly streamline the process for developing and finalising methodologies applicable across the economy whilst maintaining the integrity of emissions reductions that result. For example, the Government will now prioritise methods for development in consultation with business through technical working groups. This collaborative approach will mean that methods will be designed to be more broadly applicable to projects across a sector and that public consultation periods can be shortened.

The Government will also remove the two stage process under the Carbon Farming Initiative which required the testing of whether an activity is 'common practice' before a method can be developed. While the concept of 'common practice' will remain relevant, it will be considered along with other issues in the development of methods.

The Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee will play a key role in advising the Minister on the integrity of methods, including on whether methods comply with the 'offset integrity standards' set out in the bill.

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Topic: Crediting period and contract length
Hansard Page: 52
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Xenophon asked:

Senator Xenophon: Can I put on notice what happens in cases where the methodology changes the contracts that we have entered into? I just do not quite follow how that works, and so if the department could answer that on notice I would be grateful.

Answer:

Changes to methodologies will not affect contracts that have been entered into.

Project proponents may choose but are not required to apply a new version of a methodology.