

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
3 and 4 June 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Making the Public Service more efficient

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-115

1. Please provide details of the amended operational efficiencies your agency will make as per the 2013-14 Budget Measure 'Public Service efficiencies' (see 2013-14 Budget Paper No. 2, page 108). In addition, please provide the following detail:
 - a) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by implementing more efficient management structures, through a reduction in expenditure on staff across the Executive Level (EL) 1 and 2, and Senior Executive Service (SES) levels?
 - b) Can you quantify the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates for savings achieved by revising down the occupational density target for all new leases, buildings and major fit-outs undertaken by agencies from 16 square metres per occupied workpoint down to 14 square metres?
 - c) Has there been a reduction in business flights? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
 - d) Has there been a reduction in the use of external consultants and contractors? Has this impacted on the department/agency, and how? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
 - e) Provide an update of moving recruitment advertising online. Is any recruitment still in printed materials, and if yes, why? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?
 - f) Has the department/agency reduced its printing costs? If not, why not? Have printing costs increased, and if yes, why and by how much? Has the five per cent savings target been achieved – if yes, how, or if it will not be achieved, why not? What are the estimated savings for each year over the forward estimates?

ANSWER

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES (AIATSIS)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE (AIMS)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (ANSTO)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

IP AUSTRALIA

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS AGENCY (TEQSA)

Please refer to the response to AI-112.

In relation to part a) of the question, please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

CLIMATE CHANGE AUTHORITY (CCA)

1. There are no Budget measures relating to Climate Change Authority detailed in Budget Paper No.2.
 - a) Please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee
 - b) No expected savings. CCA does not anticipate entering into a new lease, building or major fit out over the forward estimates.
 - c), d), e) and f) Please refer to Question No. 150 provided to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee from the 2012-13 Additional Estimates.

CLEAN ENERGY REGULATOR

1. CER will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding. CER continually looks for opportunities to reduce operating costs and will investigate those categories identified by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, along with others, as possible savings opportunities.
 - a) Please refer to the Department of Finance and Deregulation's response to question F10 from the 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearing provided to the Finance and Administration Committee

- b) CER has a current lease arrangement that expires in May 2017. Given the variables that could occur in that time it is not possible to estimate probable savings.
- c) Business Class is reserved for Senior Executive Service staff for domestic airfares and applies to all staff when travelling internationally. CER Policy states that travel should only be undertaken when it is the most effective way to achieve the Regulator's business.
- d) CER will employ external consultants and contractors when needed to meet business requirements. The need for these services will fluctuate from year to year and it is not possible to estimate savings across the forward estimates. The Clean Energy Regulator will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding.
- e) CER undertakes recruitment advertising in line with the Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. The Clean Energy Regulator has ceased all recruitment advertising in print media, except for specific Senior Executive Service Positions where print media was considered a cost effective option to attract suitable applicants (section 5.3 of the Non-Campaign Recruitment Advertising Policy). The need for recruitment advertising will fluctuate from year to year and it is not possible to estimate savings across the forward estimates.
- f) CER does not anticipate a reduction in printing costs. CER will only print hard copies of a small number of essential publications. Prior to a print run being agreed, a reasonable case arguing for a print run is required. All other publications are available on the CER's Regulator's website. CER will manage its budget and make resource allocation decisions in accordance with its available funding.