

Question on notice no. 5

Portfolio question number: SQ21-002272

2021-22 Supplementary Budget Estimates

Environment and Communications Committee, Agriculture, Water and Environment Portfolio

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young: asked the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 25 October 2021—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And since the legislation was tabled in the House of Representatives, and has made its way to the Senate, have there been any additional amendments drafted?

Mr Tregurtha: Additional amendments?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The bills are before us; they've been there for quite some time.

Mr Tregurtha: That's right. Since the bills were introduced, the minister has—I will have to double-check this on notice, but my recollection is that Minister Ley did move further amendments, which we would have drafted to support certainly her discussions with senators around enabling the bills to secure passage through the parliament. So that has certainly happened.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And then those amendments were withdrawn?

Mr Tregurtha: Again, I'd have to double-check the precise nature, but certainly we have drafted, or certainly engaged in the preliminary drafting of amendments to support the minister's discussions with senators within the government, on the crossbench and in opposition.

Answer —

The Minister for the Environment introduced government amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Standards and Assurance) Bill 2021 during the debate on the Bill in the House of Representatives.

The amendments, which address the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's recommendations in its report on the Bill

- provide for the automatic repeal (sunsetting) of interim National Environmental Standards; and
- require the first review of an interim National Environmental Standard to be completed within 2 years of its commencement.

The amendments were passed by the House of Representatives on 23 June 2021.

Environment and Communications
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Question No: SQ21-002272
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Division/Agency: Environment Protection Reform Division
Topic: Additional amendments to the EPBC bills
Hansard Page: 90-91
Question Date: 25 October 2021
Question Type: Spoken

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