

# ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – FEBRUARY 2015

### ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
1	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	What is the total budget for the National Landcare Program for the forward estimates and how is it divided between streams?	Written
2	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	1. How much of the total funding for the forward estimates has been committed? 2. How much has actually been contracted?	Written
3	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	1. Are there any current grant rounds open? 2. What are these?	Written
4	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	How many more grant rounds will there be over the forward estimates? (Please provide a breakdown into financial years: Current, 15-16, 16-17)	Written
5	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	1. Is there any discretionary money in the National Landcare Budget? 2. How is this used and how is it broken down over the forward estimates?	Written
6	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program	There are about 190 grants listed under 1.1 in the list of grants provided to the President of the Senate. Can you provide detail on what these grants are for - i.e. are they mainly Landcare, are some Green Army or 20 Million Trees?	Written
7	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	20 Million Trees	I note that \$4.5 million has been awarded to 57 projects as part of the competitive round of the 20 Million Trees program. How many applications were received and to what total value?	Written
8	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	20 Million Trees	A request for tender for one or more service providers has also recently closed. Can the department outline the difference between organisations who were successful in the competitive round, and a service provider?	Written
9	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	20 Million Trees	1. During the competitive round application process, were applicants required to disclose whether they were already receiving National Landcare Program funding, or Green Army funding? 2. Or whether they had applied for funding through these other programs?	Written
10	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	20 Million Trees	When will the 1.1 million trees expected to be planted as a result of this first competitive round, and where?	Written

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11	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	20 Million Trees	When do you expect to hold another competitive round?	Written
12	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened and Invasive Species	Minister Hunt set a goal of ending mammal extinctions by 2020 and said he wanted to see improvements in at least 20 mammal trajectories between now and then. Can you update us on what plans are in place to achieve this?	Written
13	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened and Invasive Species	In QoN 37 you stated; "The Threatened Species Commissioner is working with a wide range of stakeholders, including the community, eminent scientists, state and territory governments and NGO's to identify the highest priority actions to secure priority threatened species in the wild for at least the next 100 years, in line with his Terms of Reference". When can we expect any information to be forthcoming on this issue?	Written
14	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened and Invasive Species	1. Has the agenda for the National Threatened Species and Feral Animals Summit been determined yet? 2. If not, when will it be determined?	Written
15	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened and Invasive Species	1. What specific priority threats to recovery and actions and policies necessary for recovery of threatened species will be discussed at the Minister's National Threatened Species Summit? 2. Why are those threats determined to be priority threats?	Written
16	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened and Invasive Species	Has the Threatened Species Commissioner committed any money to address any threatened species so far?	Written
17	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Community Heritage and Icons Program	1. On the Community Heritage and Icons Program, how much of the competitive grant component of this has been spent? 2. How much is committed? 3. How much is left for further rounds? 4. Is there any discretionary component, or is at all done through the usual competitive process?	Written
18	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Community Heritage and Icons Program	1. Have any projects been funded against departmental advice? 2. If so, can you please provide details on which project(s) were funded in this way, and what other projects which were recommended missed out?	Written
19	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Community Heritage and	How much funding has been distributed through the Community Heritage and Icons Program?	Written

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			Icons Program		
20	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Community Heritage and Icons Program	Can you provide a list of areas that have received funding and what for?	Written
21	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Protecting National Historic Sites Program	1. Can you tell us about the Protecting National Historic Sites Program? 2. Is this a competitive process? 3. How much of the budgeted spending has been spent, committed and how much is remaining over what period?	Written
22	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	National Trust Partnership Program	1. What about the National Trust Partnership Program? Can you give a brief rundown on how this works? 2. How much has been spent, committed and how much is remaining over what period?	Written
23	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	World Heritage Grants Program	1. The World Heritage Grants Program - how is this spent? 2. How much has been spent, committed and remaining, over what period?	Written
24	1.5: EACD	Urquhart	Water Trigger approvals	How many approvals under the Water Trigger are currently in train?	Written
25	1.5: Science	Urquhart	Coal Seam Gas mining – water impacts and fugitive emissions	The controversy around CSG is not abating, can you outline in some detail the plans the department has to resolve the scientific challenges and multiple opinions over CSG mining in relation to both water impacts and fugitive emissions?	Written
26	1.5: Science	Urquhart	IESC work	Can you provide an update on the work of the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Activities?	Written
27	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas	1. In reference to question 17, accounting for Indigenous Protected Areas, does the Government have any plans to add to the 500,000 hectares it has added to Australia's Reserve Estate since 1 July 2013, considering it has allowed the previous Government's dedicated property acquisition	Written

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				<p>programme for the creation of protected areas to lapse?</p> <p>2. How many hectares will it be purchasing?</p> <p>3. Where are those properties located?</p> <p>4. What are they protecting?</p> <p>5. Were any of those 500,000 hectares added without Commonwealth assistance?</p>	
28	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System	All the 96 properties added to the NRS since July 2013 have been gazetted. Can you advise what the projections are for 2015 additions and can you outline the planning process used to do this?	Written
29	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas	Of the 8.37 million hectares of dedicated Indigenous Protected Areas, how many of those grants were issued before Labor left office?	Written
30	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas	Is there any more funding for Indigenous Protected Areas?	Written
31	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System - connectivity	Concerning the response to Question on Notice 39, the Department states that the Government remains committed to connectivity, however it has ceased implementing the National Wildlife Corridors Plan. Does the Government have any specific connectivity strategy left that would support its apparent commitment to connectivity?	Written
32	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System - connectivity	Noting that Aichi Target 11 requires protected land to be effectively managed and well-connected, how is the Government going to achieve good connectivity, noting it ended specific connectivity strategies?	Written
33	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System	In relation to QON 19 where the Department states that Australia has already met its target of 17% of terrestrial land and inland water protected by 2020. Can you run us through how the 17% that has been achieved is being protected, as opposed to just made a part of the NRS?	Written
34	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Biological Diversity Advisory Committee	<p>1. In MYEFO, pages 160 and 161, it was announced that the Biological Diversity Advisory Committee would be abolished. Just to confirm - other committees, for example the Product Stewardship Advisory Group, were to be abolished as part of the most recent Omnibus Repeal Day Bill. Similar legislative change would be required to abolish the BDAC, is this correct?</p> <p>2. What plans are there for a Bill to abolish the BDAC?</p>	Written

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				3. I note that there is no link to the BDAC on the Department website - has this been removed in advance of its abolition, or has there not been one in the past?	
35	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Biological Diversity Advisory Committee	Could you please provide information on the BDAC? What I am seeking is membership, budget and expenditure broken down into sitting fees, travel, administrative costs etc. Please provide this for the current financial year and the 2015-16 financial year (budgeted).	Written
36	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Advisory Committee	Could you please provide information on the Indigenous Advisory Committee? What I am seeking is membership, budget and expenditure broken down into sitting fees, travel, administrative costs etc. Please provide this for the current financial year and the 2015-16 financial year (budgeted).	Written
37	BCD	Singh	NRM planning	.... I am also happy to give you some examples of where organisations are up to in terms of the products that are being delivered. In the past I know I have talked more generally about planning processes. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> That would be useful. Would you give that to us on notice, because I know that the chair is trying to get us back on time.	63
38	BCD	McKenzie	Regional NRM organisations	1. How is the implementation of the National Landcare Advisory Committee going to ensure that the Regional National Resource Management (NRM) Organisations comply with Minister Hunt's directive that "Landcare is central to the AG's NRM policies and programs"? 2. How can "self-assessment" by the Regional NRM Organisations of the quality and extent of their community engagement and collaboration be expected to work?	Written
39	1.1: EACD	Canavan	EPBC Act – enforcement, risk management, application of precautionary principle	I refer to the process and approach adopted by the Department in enforcing the EPBC Act, in particular the risk-based approach used to assess whether a project needs referral or is deemed to cause impact to Matters of National Significance under the Act, and how that applies in regard to threatened species. The compliance enforcement policy of the department states: "A risk-based approach is used to prioritise cases and identify those that warrant further investigation. Compliance and enforcement activities are undertaken in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. We may also seek the opinion of experts on specific subject matter."  1. In a number of areas across northern Australia the in-field species distribution and population	Written

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				<p>records can often be quite limited or many decades old. In instances where there are limited or outdated records, does the department accept local knowledge and observation as evidence or must the department always use official or targeted survey data?</p> <p>2. If the official data is patchy, old or doubtful in any other way, is there scope under the Act for the department to use local knowledge such as observations by landholders or local naturalists?</p>	
40	1.1: EACD	Canavan	EPBC Act – enforcement, risk management, application of precautionary principle	<p>I refer to the process and approach adopted by the Department in enforcing the EPBC Act, in particular the risk-based approach used to assess whether a project needs referral or is deemed to cause impact to Matters of National Significance under the Act, and how that applies in regard to threatened species. The compliance enforcement policy of the department states:</p> <p>“A risk-based approach is used to prioritise cases and identify those that warrant further investigation. Compliance and enforcement activities are undertaken in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. We may also seek the opinion of experts on specific subject matter.”</p> <p>1. If local knowledge cannot be used, are those seeking to progress a development project expected to carry out targeted surveys at their cost?</p> <p>2. Does the Department take into account the likely costs, particularly in areas with very poor species records, in making its judgements?</p> <p>3. What steps does the Department take in such instances to ensure that the development will not be unnecessarily impeded?</p> <p>4. Based on the Department's experience in this area, can you provide an approximate estimate of the likely costs associated with proving that freshwater sawfish will not be impacted under the Act in the upper catchments of the Gulf of Carpentaria for a tree clearing permit of 3,000ha?</p>	Written
41	1.1: EACD	Canavan	EPBC Act – enforcement, risk management, application of precautionary principle	<p>I refer to the process and approach adopted by the Department in enforcing the EPBC Act, in particular the risk-based approach used to assess whether a project needs referral or is deemed to cause impact to Matters of National Significance under the Act, and how that applies in regard to threatened species. The compliance enforcement policy of the department states:</p> <p>“A risk-based approach is used to prioritise cases and identify those that warrant further investigation. Compliance and enforcement activities are undertaken in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. We may also seek the opinion of experts on specific subject matter.”</p>	Written

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				<p>1. What evidence and what scientific level of confidence in that evidence does the Department require before it determines that a potential development project is likely to have an impact on a significant matter before the Department takes compliance actions?</p> <p>2. Can you provide an example of that evidence in any recent cases where the Department has taken compliance action?</p>	
42	1.1: EACD	Canavan	EPBC Act – enforcement, risk management, application of precautionary principle	<p>The following relates to actions taken by the Department over the last twelve months under the EPBC Act - to either seek information from developers or for referral under the Act - in relation to threatened species in North West Queensland. Specifically:</p> <p>1. What species records were used to determine distribution of threatened species?</p> <p>2. What was the confidence level of those records (distance of sighting from the development, date of last sighting etc)?</p> <p>3. What scale and confidence level of ecosystem or habitat data was used and what steps were taken to ensure it was ground truthed?</p> <p>4. Can you provide a written example of an actual risk assessment in this area within the last twelve months?</p> <p>5. Is the evidence underpinning the Department's decisions under the risk based approach provided to the developer for consideration?</p> <p>6. Please outline how this approach is consistent with the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice?</p>	Written
43	1.4: BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	<p>Could you please provide information on the Threatened Species Scientific Committee? What I am seeking is membership, budget and expenditure broken down into sitting fees, travel, administrative costs etc. Please provide this for the current financial year and the 2015-16 financial year (budgeted).</p>	Written
44	1.1: WHMD	Wright	National Whale Stranding Action Plan	<p>The government allocated \$750,000 to a National Whale Stranding Action Plan "to identify the most effective means of preventing and responding to whale strandings on our coastline" in the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election.</p> <p>1. What proportion of this money has been spent thus far?</p> <p>2. Please provide a breakdown of how this funding has been spent.</p> <p>3. Please also provide a state-by-state breakdown of the funds that have been spent.</p> <p>4. What are the strategic priorities of this plan and is it publicly available?</p>	Written

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				5. If not, will it be made available?	
45	1.1: WHMD	Wright	Necropsies of stranded whales in South Australia	<p>As the Department may be aware, there have been a number of recent whale strandings in South Australia. The most recent stranded beaked whales were collected by the South Australian Museum to conduct necropsies to try and determine the reason behind the strandings. However, it has emerged that the South Australian Museum does not have funding to do the necropsies and at least one whale carcass is being stored somehow in Adelaide while funding is being sought.</p> <p>Has the Department considered offering any financial support to the South Australian Museum to conduct necropsies of recently stranded beaked whales in South Australia – particularly given the government’s focus on strandings in its whale and dolphin action plan?</p>	Written
46	1.1: WHMD	Wright	Necropsies of stranded whales in South Australia	<p>There is some concern that the recent strandings may have been caused by acoustic trauma which could be related to seismic surveys taking place in South Australian waters.</p> <p>Has the Department considered approaching the companies conducting those surveys to see if they will cover the costs of necropsying?</p>	Written
47	1.1: WHMD	Whish-Wilson	Small Pelagic Fishery	<p>In regards to the Report of the Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity - Final (Small Pelagic Fishery [SPF]) Declaration 2012:</p> <p>Has the Department discussed at any level the report’s “key advice” with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)?</p>	Written
48	1.1: WHMD	Whish-Wilson	Small Pelagic Fishery	<p>In regards to AFMA’s recent announcement that it received a new notification that Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd has nominated the Geelong Star to fish its concessions in the SPF:</p> <p>1. Has the Department had any communications with AFMA since Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator Richard Colbeck, made media statements that he won’t be requiring the <i>Geelong Star</i> to have 100% observer coverage despite such recommendations by the expert panel?</p> <p>2. Given the expert panel was clear on the need for 100% observer coverage of all fishing operations, does the Department have faith that “move-on” provisions or bycatch mitigation are adequate to protect species of national significance within fishing operations in the SPF?</p>	Written



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				<p>3. Can you detail the role of independent observers with respect to matters of species protection?</p> <p>4. Beyond gaps in the effective implementation of protection measures, how will inadequate observer coverage effect reporting to the Department and to the public on the deaths of species of national significance?</p> <p>5. Has the Department advised the Minister that AFMA won't be requiring adequate observer coverage on the new notification by Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd with regards to the <i>Geelong Star</i>?</p>	
49	1.1: WHMD	Whish-Wilson	Small Pelagic Fishery	<p>In reference to Minister Hunt's quote that the government is "considering its response to the [SPF] expert panel report as we work to develop a permanent solution". Does the Department believe that policy measures being developed will provide a "permanent solution"?</p>	Written
50	1.1: WHMD	Whish-Wilson	Japanese lethal whaling	<p>1. Has there been Ministerial representation to the Japanese government in regards to their plans to continue lethal whaling in the Southern Ocean for the 2015/16 summer season?</p> <p>2. What plans does the government have to undertake monitoring of Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean for the 2015/16 summer season?</p> <p>3. What plans are there for Australia's contribution to the Southern Ocean Research Partnership for the 2015/16 summer season?</p> <p>4. What role did Australia play at the Expert review panel workshop of the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A) special permit proposal in Japan in February 2015?</p> <p>5. What staff from the Department attended the Expert review panel workshop of the NEWREP-A special permit proposal in Japan in February 2015?</p>	Written
51	Science	Singh	National Environmental Science Program	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Is climate science still a feature and a part of the NESP?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> Yes, it is. It is one of the hubs within this program, and I believe it is called the Earth Systems Hub. I would have to take on notice the changes in the amounts of moneys that were previously allocated and are now allocated to that, but they are funding similar activities to those that used to be funded under the climate science program.</p>	62
52	1.4: Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee on	<p>Could you please provide information on the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam gas and Large Coal Mining Development? What I am seeking is membership, budget and expenditure broken down into sitting fees, travel, administrative costs etc. Please provide this for</p>	Written

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			Coal Seam gas and Large Coal Mining Development	the current financial year and the 2015-16 financial year (budgeted).	
53	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	Australian Heritage Strategy	1. Following a November 2013 announcement on an Australian Heritage Strategy and public consultation between 14 April and 9 June 2014, we are yet to see the final strategy. At Estimates in October last year, it was expected that the Department would be in a position to brief the Minister in 'a month or so'. Has the Minister now been briefed and provided with a proposed strategy? 2. When will the final strategy be released?	Written
54	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	Australian Heritage Strategy	1. According to the answer to question number 52, 124 submissions were received. Were these all for the draft strategy, or were some of this 124 received in the period November 2013 to January 2014? 2. Were any submissions not published on the website? 3. If so, how many?	Written
55	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	Australian Heritage Strategy	1. The Government has stated that it intends to give the private sector more of a role in Australia's heritage, such as through greater integration with the tourism industry. What have the submissions said about these proposals? 2. Has there been support for this strategy? 3. What are some of the examples being discussed about greater private sector involvement?	Written
56	1.4: WHMD	Urquhart	Australian Heritage Strategy	1. The Government also indicated greater involvement of Aboriginal Australians in the heritage strategy. In what way does it envisage more participation and a stronger say by Aboriginal communities? 2. What submissions have been received from Aboriginal communities and what do the submissions say about Aboriginal involvement?	Written
57	WHMD	Singh	National Biosecurity Committee	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> With the committee that the Department of Agriculture leads, do you have some detail as to how many and who from this department participate in it? How many state entities are a part of that? Can you break down the actual detail of the structure? <b>Mr Thompson:</b> I would have to come back to you in that later session, if that is alright, with the	5

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				precise details. We participate through one of our departmental officers. I am a nominated lead contact, I think, for that committee. But participation is mainly through one of the more junior officers.	
58	WHMD	Singh	National Biosecurity Committee	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> How often does that committee meet?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I do know that it does a lot of its work out of session as well. There is a constant flow of work through that committee.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> With the states and territories?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> With all members of the committee, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> You said the states and territories are on that committee.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> Yes. I will confirm that but that is my understanding.</p>	6
59	EACD	Waters	Water monitoring and management plans	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Can you take on notice for me, given the time, what proportion of data collection prescribed by those water monitoring and management plans is done by the proponents and what proportion is done by people other than the proponents.</p> <p><b>Mr Gaddes:</b> Yes.</p>	120
60	EACD	Heffernan	IESC advice	<p><b>Mr Knudson:</b> If I can just, hopefully, clarify: we are very happy to provide you with the requests that went to the IESC for advice on this project and also the response from the IESC which gets to some of these issues.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Thank you for that. I am very grateful for that. But you already have advice from the IESC—</p> <p><b>Mr Knudson:</b> That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> based on the national partnerships agreement. You say the new arrangement, based on the water trigger, will not be much different, so, if you could provide that information to us, we would know without having to ask you.</p> <p><b>Mr Knudson:</b> And we are very happy to provide that.</p>	125
61	Science	Heffernan	Water connectivity	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> ... Then, when that is done, I would like to know why the science has not been done on the connectivity, which is unique, between the Namoi aquifer and the Great Artesian Basin. So go for your life. Until you can answer that, there should not be an approval for the mine.</p> <p>....</p> <p><b>Senator Birmingham:</b> There is no doubt that you have a consistent position on this. We will take on notice the question you have just asked. As I said before, we do not have the actual scientific panel here at estimates tonight, and you have asked a very scientific question. We will do the best we can—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> The sad part is I know the answer, they do not know the answer.</p>	104

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				<b>Senator Birmingham:</b> If that is the answer then that will be what is provided, but we will get you what we can.	
62	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Multiple use export permits – kangaroo products	Export information regarding kangaroo products (eg country of destination, quantity of specimens and unit, financial value) is not provided with Multiple Use Export Permits, but through acquittal of each export consignment occurring during the validity of the permit: (a) May I please have those acquittal details for the period from June 2013 until current?	Written
63	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Export of kangaroo meat and skins data	I have previously been provided with an excel spreadsheet listing details of exports of all kangaroo products, including: by product, country, financial value and quantity/unit. 1. May I please have that updated data, from 2012 until current? 2. May I please have the above details for the US state of California since 2010?	Written
64	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	State quota reports	Would the Department accept as valid methodology kangaroo survey transects targeting and counting kangaroos from national parks and other non-shooting areas, from which numbers counted are extrapolated to surrounding landscapes that return low or actual counts of “0” kangaroos?	Written
65	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Queensland 2015 quota report	1. During drought up to 100% juvenile kangaroo mortality has been recorded (Shepherd 1987) with up to 60% decline in populations (Robertson 1986). Considering this, and that average kangaroo population growth is recognised as low, only around 10% pa (Arnold 1991; Bilton & Croft 2004), is the Department concerned at the Queensland 2015 Quota Report asserting kangaroo population growth of 35.4% from 2012-2013 (pg 2)? 2. The Department’s website states that “the Australian Government carefully considers factors such as the biology, population size and trends and conservation status of the species;” a) What is the kangaroo population growth rate the Department uses to check state kangaroo survey estimates? May I have the contemporary research sources of that PGR please? b) The 2015 Queensland kangaroo quota report shows that the densities per km2 of the commercially harvested macropod species have declined by up to 50% in all the survey blocks that were surveyed in both 2013 2014. (pg 38 – 40). Has the Department required cessation of shooting in those localities, given drought has been found to result in 60% population declines? c) If not, why not? d) The Queensland 2015 Quota Report shows density estimates for the Inglewood Block (pg	Written

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				<p>39) as "0" counts from 2004 to 2014, except for 2010 which shows 0.50 per km2:</p> <p>i) Given that Red Kangaroos do not occur in that area, and that these extrapolated densities has added thousands to the state totals, and therefore the Quotas for this species, has the Department checked this glaring mistake?</p> <p>ii) The 2010 raw count data sheets for the Inglewood Block survey show that Red Kangaroos were only identified and recorded by one observer on one side of the survey aircraft and not the other observer on the opposite side: What examination of survey methodology and actual data does the Department undertake, given its responsibility to ensure that commercial shooting is sustainable?</p> <p>iii) What was Queensland Red Kangaroo Quota and Take for 2010 in Queensland?</p> <p>iv) Are Red Kangaroos allowed to be shot in the Inglewood block currently?</p> <p>3. Does the Department accept survey results that overfly National Parks and other non-shooting areas, with those counted numbers extrapolated over surrounding countryside?</p>	
66	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Queensland Whiptail Wallabies	<p>In 2012 the Department removed from its website historical data showing 451,508 Whiptail Wallabies where shot in Queensland from 1975 to 1999. Another 803 are currently listed as having been shot in Queensland from 2001 – 2003.</p> <p>a) When were Whiptail Wallabies removed from the commercial shooting list?</p> <p>b) Why were they removed?</p> <p>c) What is the current status of Whiptail Wallabies in Queensland?</p> <p>d) How many of the species persist in Queensland?</p> <p>e) If this is not known, why not?</p>	Written
67	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Queensland Western Grey Kangaroos	<p>Western Grey Kangaroos are no longer allowed to be commercially shot in Queensland, however it is recognised that it is difficult to tell the species apart from Eastern Grey Kangaroos:</p> <p>a) Given in 1986 "open seasons" were declared for Western Grey Kangaroos in Queensland, when were the species no longer allowed to be commercially shot, and why did this occur?</p> <p>b) What are the current numbers of Western Grey Kangaroos persisting in Queensland?</p>	Written
68	1.5: WHMD	Rhiannon	Queensland kangaroos and California	<p>Regarding the Department's 2014 Report to the Californian legislator on the commercial harvest of kangaroos in Australia:</p> <p>1. Page 2 of the report states that special quotas are used when "continuing damage from overgrazing by kangaroos has been demonstrated". May I please have the references to</p>	Written

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				<p>contemporary published science proving environmental damage from overgrazing by kangaroos, and the circumstances in which this happens please?</p> <p>2. Page 2 of the report also states that “Queensland’s overall 2013 population estimate of 32.8 million represented an increase of 8.7 million from the 2012 estimate” and that “rapid increases [in kangaroo populations] typically follow the breaking of drought conditions” and that “kangaroos are highly fecund”:</p> <p>a) How does this reconcile with the contemporary science that confirms kangaroos are slow-growing with low reproductive rates and normal 73% juvenile mortality rates?</p> <p>b) Given the contemporary science agrees that maximum population growth rate of macropods is 10% (Arnold 1991; Bilton &amp; Croft 2004):</p> <p>i) How does this a maximum population growth rate of 10% reconcile with the Department’s assertion of a 36% increase in populations?</p> <p>ii) May I have references to the contemporary science showing this is possible in wild populations, and under what conditions?</p> <p>c) Page 3 of the report states “a correction factor of 1.85% has ... been applied to common wallaroo estimates since 2011”. Can the Department confirm that actual counts of observed animals are nearly doubled as suggested by this correction factor?</p> <p>3. Page 2 of the report also states: “rapid increases [in kangaroo populations] typically follow the breaking of drought conditions” and that “kangaroos are highly fecund”:</p> <p>a) How does this reconcile with the published science that confirms macropods are a slow-breeding marsupial with low reproductive rates and normal 73% juvenile mortality rate (eg Arnold 1991)?</p> <p>b) Is this statement based on popularly repeated myth? Please provide the published science.</p> <p>4. The Department asserts juvenile kangaroo survival “is usually high 85-100%” based on just two papers from 50 and 30 years ago (Newsome 1965 &amp; Shepherd 1981). However other science confirms high juvenile mortality (eg Caughley 1967); with Arnold (1991) reporting 73% mortality in the wild, with 50% taken by foxes (Banks et al 2000):</p> <p>a) Would the Department confirm its assertion 85 to 100% kangaroo juvenile survivorship in the wild to independence please?</p> <p>b) May I be advised which kangaroo scientists currently advises the Department that 85-100%</p>	

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p>juvenile macropod survivorship in the wild is normal?</p> <p>5. Page 2 of the report also states: “female red kangaroos are able to have three young simultaneously” and “other species generally have two dependent young at any one time”. Considering that:</p> <p>a) Embryonic diapause confers no major reproductive advantage for the Reds and the Wallaroos in which it occurs (Dawson 1995);</p> <p>b) Averaged across species, it takes an average of 18 months for a kangaroo joey to become fully independent of its mother (eg Poole 1975; Jackson; Staker,L; Dawson 1995) effectively producing just one joey to independence pa;</p> <p>c) Juvenile mortality in the wild is high at 73% (Arnold 1991 refer to previous question);</p> <p>Can the Department confirm it is advising foreign government that a wild kangaroo doe can raise simultaneously 2-3 independent joeys per year? May I have references to the science that confirms this statement?</p>	
69	1.6: EQD	Urquhart	OSGG Summer Scholarship	<p>1. I note from the list of grants for the portfolio that there was a 'one-off/ad hoc' grant for an OSGG Summer Scholarship awarded, to the value of \$3,800 ex GST. Can you advise what this is, and how it is awarded?</p> <p>2. It says it is one-off or ad-hoc, does this mean it hasn't been done before?</p>	Written
70	1.6: EQD	Urquhart	National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme	<p>1. I would like to ask a few questions on the operational review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. Submissions to this review closed on 6 February - how many submissions were received?</p> <p>2. When will these submissions be posted online [note, last checked on Wed 18/2]?</p> <p>3. Were there many submissions from state and local governments?</p> <p>4. Did the submissions raise serious concerns about the ongoing viability of the scheme, or were they generally supportive of the status quo?</p> <p>5. A number of information sessions were also held in most capital cities. Were these well attended?</p> <p>6. Is it possible to get a list of who attended these sessions?</p> <p>7. Is there any reason to expect delays in the process?</p> <p>8. Can we expect to see any regulatory changes that arise from the review drafted by June this year?</p>	Written

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71	CCARE	Waters	Savings from repeal of carbon tax	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> The government has repeatedly claimed that the repeal of the carbon price would save Australian households \$550 per year. Can the department provide a breakdown of how much households have actually saved since the repeal of the carbon price?</p> <p>....</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Is there someone else in the room who has the dollar figures?</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> We will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> It is pretty widely known to be about \$140. Is there anything you have in front of you that can corroborate that figure?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> It does not look like it, unfortunately.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you for taking that on notice.</p>	65-66
72	CCARE	Waters	Electricity charges	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> .... Can you table the figures you have provided to the minister for his announcements about the change in electricity bills per network distribution area? Do you have that to hand?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> I do not believe I have that to hand. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you. Can you make sure, in the provision of that, that you separate the fixed service charge from the other aspects?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> Yes, we will do that.</p>	66
73	CCARE	Singh	Inventory modelling	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> If I can have an answer as to when this modelling will be done in response to the inventory.</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> I will take that on notice.</p>	74
74	ERF	Singh	ERF methods	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Can you provide the committee with details around these methods? On notice, obviously</p> <p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> On notice?</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> Yes, we would be very happy to do that.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> There are 33, so we would be here all day. You have outlined the methods, but I would actually like to have some detail into each of those, if you could provide that to the committee.</p> <p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> Yes, certainly.</p>	64
75	ERF	Waters	Technical working groups	<p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> The process for developing the methods at present is that the department works in collaboration with technical and other experts through technical working groups. A number of experts, technical experts and business representatives, participate in those groups. My colleague Ms Tilley may have details as to who was on that technical working group with her, if that would assist.</p>	67-68



QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you, yes. That would be great.</p> <p><b>Ms Tilley:</b> Unfortunately I do not have the specific names in front of me, but we can provide those on notice.</p>	
76	ERF	Waters	Technical working groups	<p><b>Mr Kennedy:</b> ....I can make some remarks about where we expect the initial interest in particular to be in the auction. Ms Munro may follow this up later. Of course, there are a number of CFI projects transitioning across to the ERF arrangements, many with seven-year crediting periods in front of them. This will be an opportunity for them to secure value for those emissions reductions that they would get credited under these arrangements. There is actually considerable interest around those—</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Sure, that is because CFI has been around quite—</p> <p><b>Mr Kennedy:</b> projects. We have had quite a bit of interest. Perhaps the best way to do this is by giving you—I do not have in front of me but through question on notice—the people who have been part of our technical working groups, but quite a bit of interest across all our technical working groups for developing methods. We would expect projects to come forward out of that process.</p>	69
77	ERF	Waters	Offsets	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> .... Can I quickly move, with my final question, to the New South Wales major projects offsets policy which, on its face, appears to allow double dipping in terms of biodiversity offsets and carbon credits. Is there anybody who is looking at that double dipping in the process of the accreditation of that policy under the proposed approval bail-out?</p> <p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> I understand that this is an issue that has been raised with colleagues in the broader department, who are also looking at this policy and that broader set of issues. It has been raised with us. We have indicated that we are very interested in working through those issues with our colleagues in the New South Wales government to ensure that the integrity of the Emissions Reduction Fund is maintained in that regard.</p> <p>I think it is probably worth mentioning that the issue that Ms Tilley was talking about earlier, with respect to the waste coalmine gas, is a similar type of issue in as much as it turns around this regulatory additionality test which is endeavouring to ensure that projects are not required under either Commonwealth or other jurisdictions' legislation.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Perhaps you could take this on notice. I had thought that there was a legislative precluding of offsets being counted for ERF purposes. If that is not the case can you let me know, and whether there are any plans to make that the case.</p> <p><b>Ms Thompson:</b> Yes.</p>	69
78	CCARE	Lines	Adaptation	<p><b>Mr Archer:</b> We have an adaptation team in my division. You could group its functions into two: one relates to domestic adaptation activity, which is what we have been talking about, but it is</p>	78

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
			staffing	<p>also responsible for delivering certain capacity building projects relating to adaptation under what is referred to as PCCSP program—that is funding that we have received via the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, previously through AusAID, to undertake work within the region. Off the top of my head, that team might be about eight people at present.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Do we have somebody in the room who can do better than 'off the top of my head'?</p> <p><b>Mr Faris:</b> It is a section of eight people.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> What is the FTE?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> It would be a little bit less than eight. I think there are one or two people working part-time hours, but I would have to take that on notice to give you the precise answer.</p>	
79	CCARE	Lines	Adaptation staffing	<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> What changes have there been due to voluntary redundancies?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> I do not think we have had any voluntary redundancies in the adaptation team, but I would like to take that on notice.</p>	78
80	CCARE	Lines	Adaptation Research Networks	<p><b>Mr Archer:</b> The funding agreement was executed on 16 October. In the roughly four months since then, most of the focus has been on planning the phase 2 project. In terms of the agreement that we have with NCCARF, the milestones that have been reached relate to the delivery of a project plan; a monitoring and evaluation work program; a proposal for hosting arrangements for the Adaptation Research Networks, of which there are four; and a stakeholder engagement plan. As I said, the focus really has been on commencement of the project, and we will start to see those plans being executed.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Have they got dates for start-up?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> I am sure that they do; I do not think that I have those with me.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> I think that you have outlined four areas that your planning focused on, so perhaps you can take on notice to give us the start dates for those actions.</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> Yes, I am happy to do that.</p>	78
81	CCARE	Lines	Funding agreement milestones	<p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Thank you. So is it fair to say that the current focus of your work is really the planning in the way that you have described it?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> That has largely been the focus to this point of time, in terms of the NCCARF work program, yes. Obviously, we will move from a planning phase into a doing phase—or NCCARF will.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Yes. You are not sure when, but you will give me dates for that?</p> <p><b>Mr Archer:</b> Yes. Certainly, again, we have some milestones established in our funding agreement.</p> <p><b>Senator LINES:</b> Can you give those milestones to me as well?</p>	78

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				<b>Mr Archer:</b> I think that we will be able to do that, yes.	
82	AAD	Singh	Focus group membership	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> What is the membership makeup of each of those focus groups? <b>Dr Fleming:</b> Can I take that on notice? I can provide you with the departmental membership of the focus groups.	50
83	AAD	Singh	Focus group membership	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> Do you chair them all? <b>Dr Fleming:</b> We chair all of them. DFAT co-chairs the strategic interests in Antarctica. <b>Dr Kennedy:</b> In answer to your earlier question, I think on the economic capability development one we will come back to you. There is direct engagement with the Tasmanian government and the other bodies in Tasmania that are interested in economic development. But we will confirm on notice for you exactly how that group is engaging with those players.	50
84	AAD	Sinodinos	Government funding	<b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> Just a quick follow-up question, then. In terms of Tasmania as a gateway to Antarctica, how much, overall, is the federal government putting into the state to do with its Antarctic responsibilities? We seem to have a vision of it as a logistics hub for Antarctic activities. <b>Dr Wooding:</b> Not all the money comes from the environment portfolio. There is the amount appropriated for the Antarctic Division. There are also other measures such as the Antarctic Gateway Partnership, the airport extension and a range of other measures across other portfolios. So I do not know that I can give you an answer of all of that together, but, certainly, it is in the order of somewhere up towards \$200 million. But we would have to take the figures on notice. We would have to pull the information from a number of sources. <b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> This is in terms of initiatives since the change of government we are talking about? Can you take it on notice? <b>Dr Wooding:</b> I will take it on notice. I think it is a cross-portfolio question. <b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> If you could do it across portfolios, that would be good. <b>Dr Wooding:</b> Yes.	53
85	AAD	Whish-Wilson	Wilkins Runway	In respect of the Wilkins Runway: 1. How many flights have landed for the last five summers (including the current summer)? 2. What rectification works have been undertaken on the runway in recent years? 3. How much did these rectification works cost? 4. What other rectification works are planned?	Written
86	AAD	Whish-Wilson	East and West Antarctic ice sheets	In respect of findings by AAD and its partners about the stability and mass of both the East and West Antarctic ice sheets: 1. What are the latest research findings?	Written

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				2. What are the ongoing plans for research into the stability and mass of both the East and West Antarctic ice sheets?	
87	AAD	Whish-Wilson	Australian Antarctic Base	Can the AAD please confirm the number of people accommodated over each summer and winter period at each Australian Antarctic Base for the last five years?	Written
88	MDBA	Xenophon	Buybacks	1. Under the Murray-Darling Basin plan the Government has a target of recovering 2750GL of water. How much of this target has so far been achieved? 2. How much water has been recovered by buy-backs? 3. How much did these buy-backs cost in total and per GL? 4. How many GL are yet to be recovered so that we meet the target? 5. How will this remaining water be recovered? 6. How much was this expected to cost? 7. How much per GL will it cost? 8. Wouldn't it be quicker, cheaper and able to be verified if the Government continued to buy-back water of willing sellers?	Written
89	Water	Xenophon	Menindee Lakes	1. Can you provide an update on the Commonwealth and NSW Government Project to improve the efficiency of the operation of the Menindee Lakes for water storage? 2. How will the project deliver benefits to South Australia? 3. Will it allow increased flows to SA? 4. Has work on the planning project been completed? 5. When do you expect on-ground works to commence?	Written
90	Water	Xenophon	Menindee Lakes	I refer to an article in the Stock Journal of 16 Feb 2015 that highlights concerns over the security of Broken Hill's water supply. The article reports that storages are due to run out in about 12 months.  1. Is the Department aware of these reports and is it consulting with the NSW Office of Water to address this? 2. What consultations have taken place? 3. Have there been too many delays in getting works off the ground to improve efficiency of the Lakes and address the water evaporation?	Written

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91	Water	Xenophon	Menindee Lakes	Do you still expect infrastructure and operational changes to save around 80 gigalitres per year of water that would otherwise evaporate from the lakes?	Written
92	CEWO	Canavan	Water not used	<b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> You have said you used 4,056 gigs since 2008. Could you take on notice how much water you have not been able to use—that you have been allocated, but that you have not been able to use either for an environmental purpose— <b>Mr Papps:</b> Yes, we can give you those figures. They are figures of a gigalitre in the 0.1-type range. We can provide you with those.	39-40
93	CSD	Lines	Employee initiated separations	<b>Senator LINES:</b> Can you give a precise breakdown, please, of the employees initiated separations, and what is happening to the posts that they were filling? You can take the question on notice. <b>Ms Wiley-Smith:</b> I will take it on notice. Thank you.	7
94	CSD	Lines	Consultancies	<b>Ms Wiley-Smith:</b> In terms of consultancies, that is something that we do not have information on at the moment. It is not something that we control centrally. It depends on whether the line areas have a particular need for expertise. They go out and test the market and actually employ a company to do a specific task. We can certainly provide more information on that, perhaps on notice.	8
95	CSD	Singh	Capability assessment process	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> Can you tell this committee the number of staff that left the department as a result of the capability assessment process? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> Can I take that question on notice? I do not have that in front of me.	8
96	CSD	Waters	EACD staffing	<b>Senator WATERS:</b> Okay. Can you take on notice for me the FTE equivalent figure for May 2014 so I can compare apples with apples? <b>Ms Wiley-Smith:</b> Certainly.	12
97	PAID	Sinodinos	Register of Environmental Organisations	<b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> How do you determine if the same people have set up a number of organisations with related purposes? You get what I mean? <b>Dr Kennedy:</b> Yes. As far as I am aware, but I will double check this by taking the question on notice, there is nothing to preclude people being part of different organisations for similar purposes. <b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> It is just that you do not want a situation where some people can set up a number of similar organisations with a relatively similar membership just to take advantage of being registered as environmental organisations. <b>Dr Kennedy:</b> The policy that we administer does not go to that particular issue. The policy as it is, and I will double check for you, would allow what you have just described.	9

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98	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Just to clarify, I could set up an organisation with 50 members, achieve accreditation and have another organisation with exactly the same 50 members with a different name and different constitution and still qualify. There are no restrictions on the overlap of membership. That is my understanding, but can you confirm that?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I would say that I do not know of any examples like that.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> I know that. That is just to put it in stark relief.</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> We do not tend to get into hypotheticals, but I will confirm whether that is a plausible scenario. It is a reasonable point to make that there would be reasonable overlaps across some of the organisations you see among the over 500 organisations listed on the register of environmental organisations.</p>	9-10
99	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> If an organisation's principal purpose is education, is there any obligation on them not to make misleading or deceptive claims?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> That is a good question. If it were drawn to our attention that one of the bodies were making claims that did not have educational value—let's put it that way—so they were deliberately misleading, then they would be—</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Have you ever investigated an organisation for those reasons?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I do not know off the top of my head. I will have to take that on notice. When we say 'education' we do not mean you can just make up something and say something patently misleading. But there would be a point—and this again would be a spectrum—where a set of statements are clearly misleading, are advocacy and are beyond education. Then there would be a set of contested areas.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> I am really interested in how this is enforced, because, whatever the law says, if it is not enforced then it does not matter—if you could take that on notice. I know from last estimates you gave me some information. But could you take on notice if anyone has been even investigated for not complying with that particular principal purpose.</p>	10
100	PAID	Sinodinos	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator SINODINOS:</b> Let's say Ian Plimer sets up the 'Ian Plimer Appreciation Society' as a vehicle for pushing his views on climate change. How would that sort of example be treated? You can go away and think about this, but is that education? What I am getting at is that there are some areas that are potentially contested. How do you treat those sorts of areas when it comes to the education criteria?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I will take that on notice. We will try and respond in the way that Senator Canavan has outlined. We will have to be careful talking about specific cases. We will try and find one that can give you more insight about the compliance.</p>	10-11

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
101	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> I notice in the guidelines there is information on expenditure provided. What level of detail is that to? Does it break it up into things like advertising and wages et cetera or is it broader than that?</p> <p><b>Ms Jensen:</b> We can take the specific breakdowns on notice. It does depend on the nature of the compliance activity. It is important to recall that compliance activities are conducted by the ATO and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as well as the department. So it does depend on the nature of the activity.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> But you receive the information? My question just relates to the information.</p> <p><b>Ms Jensen:</b> All three organisations will receive financial information and conduct compliance activity depending on the particular aspect of compliance.</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> What we can provide you on notice is the breakdown of the annual returns that come to this department for our aspect of compliance. I think that is what you are seeking.</p>	11
102	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I might be able to help you. I will tell you this and I will also confirm it on notice: for just the conduit issue, I am not aware of any organisation being taken off the register.</p>	11
103	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Did you in your investigations ask to see the board papers of GetUp! that <i>The Australian</i> reported on?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I will take that on notice. We are very careful about these compliance arrangements because of their interaction with the tax law and the things that officials typically do. To be frank, tax officials are much more practised with that information. But I appreciate your interest in that.</p>	11
104	PAID	Canavan	Register of Environmental Organisations	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Do you have the powers to do that right now? This is an Income Tax Assessment Act issue, so would you have the powers to subpoena documents and those types of things?</p> <p><b>Dr Kennedy:</b> I will take on notice the particulars of whether we sought that information. That will also allow me to just consult with colleagues about the usual practice—and we will do everything we can to respond to you in the usual way—of revealing information about particular compliance cases. I am sure we can address the issue.</p>	12
105	PAID	Singh	Formal bodies	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Perhaps we could have a list of all of the bodies, some of which the minister has just alluded to, that do exist and when they have met. Also, in relation to this informal minister's meeting, if we can have on notice a list of when that particular body, whatever it is known as—</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> It is an environment ministers meeting.</p>	13-14

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				<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> has met since the abolition of SCEW.</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> Certainly.....</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> The one this week will be the second. We will come back—</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> With a list of all of the other bodies as well.</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> There are other formal bodies under legislation, including the National Environmental Protection Council and a broad range of others.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> And all of those bodies that this department participates in?</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> Yes, Senator.</p>	
106	BoM	Singh	Staffing	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> I was going to ask you how many staff currently work on climate issues in the BOM. But could you take the question on notice, if you do not have the figure about how many staff worked in the same area in 2013.</p> <p><b>Ms Middleton:</b> We can take it on notice and give you a breakdown. We certainly have a number of research scientists that work in the climate area. That covers everything from seasonal forecasting right through to a very small number who work on the climate record. I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	15
107	BoM	Xenophon	Water information	<p>I note BOM's expenditure of \$430.5 million to 'improve water information' within the Murray-Darling Basin (Information from FOI 050514).</p> <p>1. Can the BOM provide evidence of improved water information? Please provide details.</p> <p>2. How does the BOM monitor value for money and outcomes from this program? Please provide details.</p>	Written
108	CCA	Canavan	McKittrick paper	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Are you familiar with a paper by Dr Ross McKittrick that came out late last year analysing the HadCRUT4 temperature series database?</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> It is not springing to mind right now, sorry.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> He produced a paper which did some new analysis of that temperature series and he did some new tests for heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation and found that there are 19 years of, basically, no warming in that data series. How do you explain that result? The predictions have been for warming and there have certainly been more carbon emissions over that timescale. Why haven't we seen warming in these datasets?</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> We will probably take it on notice to get you a more detailed response from the scientists who are members of our authority, but there is some information about this in our targets and progress review that we released in February last year. It is actually incorrect to say that there has been no warming at all. There has been some continued warming of atmospheric temperatures. There is also been considerable warming in our oceans over that period of time.</p>	100



QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p>As I am sure you are aware, the long-term climate has a good deal of natural variability. Actually, in terms of natural variability, we have not been in an El Nino. We have not had lots of solar activity. We have not had any of the other sorts of—</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> We have had El Ninos over that timescale. And I do apologise; I should have said no statistically significant warming over those timescales. We can obviously debate over what timescale, but clearly there has been a flattening in the series and it does not seem to me to be well explained by the theory of climate change.</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> We do have some information on page 32 of our <i>Targets and progress</i> report. There is a box on that particular issue. I am sure, if there is any more information that we can provide, we would certainly be very happy to. Basically, however, the Climate Change Authority is a policy advisory body. We are not a scientific advisory body. We do have scientists on our board, but our job is not to provide scientific advice.</p>	
109	CCA	Canavan	Modelling assumptions	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> It is all coming back to me. Remind me if I am wrong. What were the technology assumptions under those? They assume clean coal would become economic in about the 2030s, I thought.</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> I would need to go back and check. I am pretty sure there was clean coal in there, there was nuclear in there—this is for the world. For Australia, there was clean coal. I do not think this particular project included nuclear for Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> I did not think there was nuclear, but I remember clean coal coming like manna from heaven in the 2030s and saving everybody.</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> Of course, it depends on your assumptions about costs.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Absolutely. Can you just check for me, perhaps on notice, how much was renewables in 2050 when that price ended? What share of electricity production was renewables?</p> <p><b>Ms Harris:</b> Yes. I think we have a very large proportion by 2050. We might be able to find that.</p>	102-103
110	CER	Milne	Prosecutions	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> That is the next point I want to come to. I just wanted to reassure the community that the regulator does a statistically significant number of inspections and, if there are problems, they turn off any system and report it. State and territory governments are then responsible for following up. Has anyone been taken to court or prosecuted? I understand that is also a power under the act for states. Do you know if there have been any cases?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson:</b> I would like to take that on notice. I am not aware of any, but we would need to check with the state and territory regulators to find out if they have taken that course of action.</p>	86
111	CER	Back	Redbank	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> .... You were saying that the company went into receivership. Do you know when that was and when you were informed of that?</p>	89

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p><b>Ms Munro:</b> I am not sure if I have that date, but it certainly goes back to—</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Perhaps you could take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Munro:</b> We will take on notice as to when we were advised by Redbank that they—</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> My advice is they went into receivership on 5 October 2013.</p> <p><b>Ms Munro:</b> It certainly was in 2013. I just do not have the date in front of me.</p>	
112	CER	Back	Gullen Range Wind Farm	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> I will ask you to take this on notice or answer when you appear before the select committee. I am now referring to the New South Wales Planning and Assessment Commission's refusal to modify the existing approval from GRWF, which is dated in October last year. I note that that refusal was made according to section 75W of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in New South Wales, and that they had applied for a modification to their planning consent retrospectively, accepting that the turbines were built and are generating in breach of their planning permit. Once constructed in the wrong locations, I put to you that they could not operate in accordance with their planning permit, and, therefore, that the farm was improperly accredited by you, and that the Clean Energy Regulator is validating LGCs on behalf the federal government effectively against its own laws. I will invite you either now or, if time does not permit, on notice to respond.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> We really are running out of time, so if you wanted to quickly make reference to the answer and if you could take the rest on notice that would be very helpful.</p> <p><b>Ms Munro:</b> There are a couple of points, because in the course of that long question there were a number of assertions that were made that were not correct. In particular, it is my understanding that Gullen Range Wind Farm, in seeking the amendments, has never accepted that it was in breach—these words are important in a legal term—but it did want to have the conditions rectified. For legal reasons, which I think that we have rehearsed a number of times, we do not accept that we have been improperly validating certificates or that we are acting in a way which does not fulfil, to the letter, the law which we are obliged to administer. So I just want to put that on record for the committee. I am certainly very happy to answer that question more extensively through questions on notice and, indeed, at the select committee.</p>	91-92
113	CER	Canavan	Surplus certificates	<p><b>Ms Munro:</b> There is still a surplus that accumulated during the period when the small-scale and large-scale schemes were combined. At the time the two schemes were split, those surplus units remained in the large-scale scheme. That is why the profile was set up in the way it was. It was designed to absorb some of that surplus. It has not absorbed all of it at this point.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> How much surplus is left at the moment?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson:</b> Our estimate, at the end of the acquittal period on 14 February, was that it should be around 25 million. I can take that on notice just to recheck that figure, but that was</p>	92

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				based on an estimate from a few months ago of what would be surrendered and what would be created. I think 25 million is in the ballpark.	
114	CER	Waters	ERF auctions	<b>Senator WATERS:</b> There were some media reports saying that the response to the ERF auctions were subdued. I am interested—you can perhaps take it on notice—in how many firms have submitted statements of interest in bidding. Likewise, as a second part to that first question, what are you doing to mitigate most of them coming from the landfill industry?	69
115	DNP	Leyonhjelm	Australian Landscape Trust	<b>Senator LEYONHJELM:</b> Do you, as the director, pay any money to the Australian Landscape Trust? <b>Ms Barnes:</b> I will take that on notice, but I do not think so. <b>Senator LEYONHJELM:</b> If you would, please. And if you do pay any money to them, how much and for what purpose? Could add that to the questions on notice, please. <b>Ms Barnes:</b> Certainly.	54
116	DNP	Leyonhjelm	Management costs for reserves	<b>Senator LEYONHJELM:</b> What sort of ratio would be reasonable? <b>Ms Barnes:</b> I could not answer that question. <b>Senator LEYONHJELM:</b> How about expenditure per hectare? <b>Ms Barnes:</b> I can get back to you on that. We could do a crude division of the budget by the number of hectares, but, as I said, that would not give you a very good indication of the effectiveness of the use of the public funds.	55
117	DNP	Singh	Marine reserves review – recreational fishing	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> The minister has complained about fishers being locked out of key coastal areas by the previous management plans, which he dissolved. What key coastal areas are they, specifically? <b>Mr Clark:</b> The previous management arrangements put in place not only declared the national network of marine reserves; it also then set in place the management zones that would apply in each of those reserves. Each of those reserves has different conditions attached to them, depending on the IUCN category that applies to those zones—from highly protected areas to IUCN category II, IUCN category IV, habitat protection zones and multiple use areas. Two-thirds of that network allowed various forms of commercial fishing to exist, depending on the type of the activity, and it is the nature and relationship of that activity to the values of the reserve. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> But I am asking which key coastal areas specifically the minister complained fishers were being locked out of? What were the key coastal areas <b>Mr Clark:</b> I am not sure what statement you are referring to. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> It is a press release by Greg Hunt and Richard Colbeck from December 2013. It specifically relates to the government not supporting locking out large areas of oceans to prevent fishers from taking out a boat and casting a line et cetera. I would like to know which are	56-57

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p>these key coastal areas specifically that the minister is referring to.</p> <p><b>Mr Clark:</b> The review that has been put in place is the process by which the government is currently looking at the management arrangements for the future marine reserve estate. At the moment, only those reserves declared and that were in place prior to 2012 have an impact on either commercial or recreational fishers. All of the reserves that were declared in 2012 currently have no management arrangements in place and are subject to the current review.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> I am aware of that, but that does not answer my question. If you are not going to give me the key coastal areas, can you take that on notice, perhaps.</p> <p><b>Mr Clark:</b> I am happy to provide a map of the locations of the reserves that were proposed and declared in 2012.</p>	
118	DNP	Canavan	Court cases - hunting	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> I think I saw that about four of the five that have been convicted were for hunting in Kakadu National Park—is that right?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> What were those people hunting?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> I can get back to you with the details, but often it is pigs or—</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Pigs?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> How do you control pigs in your national parks?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> Through pest plans and looking at where the pigs are doing the most damage, and then putting in place programs either with our staff or with contractors through the local Indigenous communities.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Do you shoot the pigs?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> We do.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> And you say you engage contractors to do that?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> We do some ourselves and sometimes we might engage Indigenous groups to help us, but I can get you details if you like?</p>	60
119	DNP	Canavan	Pest management practice complaints	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Can you take on notice if there have been any complaints in the last 12 months about the pest management practises in your national parks?</p> <p><b>Ms Barnes:</b> Yes, I can check that.</p>	60
120	GBRMPA	Singh	Reef Advisory Committee	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Just finally, the Reef Advisory Committees for 2015, can you provide the membership and the meeting schedule for the Reef Advisory Committee? I might have to take this on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> I will do that, yes. We have two operating now—one established and another one</p>	29

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				coming. We have reviewed them recently and we are still looking at the best way for us to get those technical advices. We will give you a state of play with those committees.	
121	GBRMPA	Rice	Mandatory pilotage	<p><b>Senator RICE:</b> So you are not currently doing any work as to whether the area should be expanded? Looking at the statistics, there seem to be two areas where significant groundings have occurred over the last 15 years, both outside the mandatory pilotage areas: Gladstone and Mourilyan. I am interested in whether you are currently doing work on looking at those areas outside the current mandatory pilotage areas.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> I am not aware of anything right at the minute. As I say, I understood it was fully reviewed about 12 months ago, but I should check that I am correct in that, I think.</p> <p><b>Senator RICE:</b> Okay, get back to us as to whether you are doing any work looking at the necessity to expand the areas.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> Yes, or what other parts of government are doing that. The pilotage is legislated under the marine park act but policed principally by AMSA and the vessel traffic service. It is a joint arrangement.</p>	35
122	GBRMPA	Rice	Australian flagged shipping	<p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> Do you have any data on what percentage of shipping through the Great Barrier Reef is Australian flagged?</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> It would be available; I do not have it to hand.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> That would be AMSA, I suppose.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> Yes. Most of the questions the senator has asked are under the direct control of maritime safety.</p> <p><b>Senator CANAVAN:</b> It would be mostly foreign, wouldn't it? We would be lucky to have, I think, 12 ships out there at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator RICE:</b> If we could put that on notice, I might ask the same question of AMSA during this session of estimates.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> I think they would be better placed to brief you on it.</p> <p><b>Senator RICE:</b> But, given the increased risk of accidents from foreign owned ships, it sounds like it would be something that would be useful for the authority to know as well.</p> <p><b>Dr Reichelt:</b> It would be.</p>	36
123	MDBA	Singh	Program funding	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> So it is a mixture of joint state and federal government funding?</p> <p><b>Dr Dickson:</b> Yes, state and federal governments. I am just having a look at these. Perhaps the simplest way of providing an answer to you—because there are a mixture of things that we provide as part of a Basin Plan, which is a Commonwealth appropriation, and things through the joint programs, where we get contributions from the states—is to take it on notice and give you a breakdown.</p>	45-46

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<b>Senator SINGH:</b> Maybe you could take on notice what is Commonwealth and what is joint funding. That would be good.	
124	MDBA	Singh	Program funding	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> You will table that. Does that have the forward estimates? <b>Dr Dickson:</b> I can send you, in response to a question on notice, the detailed table in the portfolio budget statements. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> Including the forward estimates? <b>Dr Dickson:</b> It has the forward estimates, yes.	46-47
125	MDBA	Xenophon	Coorong	<p>I refer to concerns raised with my office by the River Lakes and Coorong Action Group.</p> <p>The Action Group has told me they are seeing system-wide ecosystem benefits from the release of more 327 gigalitres of The Living Murray (TLM) environmental water delivered in 2013-14, with more than 1000 gigalitres of TLM water over the life of the program. These benefits include a comeback of ruppia tuberosa in the Southern Coorong, a key indicator of health. However other indicators, like the larger wading birds, have not returned in numbers nor are they in good condition.</p> <p>There is still concern among tourism operators, farmers and environmentalists that at this rate it will take more than ten years to get back to what was regarded as "normal" in 2002.</p> <p>Around the Coorong and the Murray Mouth, water quality remains a key concern for farmers and for the environment. Perhaps most significantly, dredging of the Murray Mouth has already re-started.</p> <p>1. Included in the Basin Plan is a statement that the Murray Mouth be kept open without pumping for 90% of the time, which equates to being open for 9 years out of 10.  a. Recently pumps were moved to the Murray Mouth and pumping commenced. What triggers are activated by this action to increase river flow to re-open the Murray Mouth?  b. What are the options available to increase this river flow?</p> <p>2. Will the Murray Darling Basin Plan deliver sufficient water through spring to maintain water critical for recovery of a key plant Ruppia tuberosa in the Southern Lagoon?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
126	MDBA	Xenophon	ACF Report	<p>I refer to the Australian Conservation Foundation's report 'Restoring our lifeblood: Progress on returning water to the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin' (<a href="http://www.acfonline.org.au/sites/default/files/resources/ACF_MDB%20Report2014_final.pdf">http://www.acfonline.org.au/sites/default/files/resources/ACF_MDB%20Report2014_final.pdf</a>) which has warned that on the second anniversary of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, while some aspects of the plan are proceeding as intended other key areas are not on track and some are in danger of going backwards.</p> <p>1. How does the MDBA respond to this assessment – is this a fair assessment?  2. What are the key challenges threatening progress towards the plan's Environmental goals?  3. What are your plans to ensure that the authority maintains the Basin Plan's agreed timelines?</p>	Written
127	MDBA	Xenophon	Drive reform in the Basin	<p>\$330 million was given to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission and the National Water Commission to 'drive reform in the Basin' (Information from FOI 050514).</p> <p>1. Can the MDBA provide details how much reform this funding (to the MDBA) has driven?  2. How does the MDBA measure 'reform' and what standards does it apply to such expenditures? Please provide details.</p>	Written
128	MDBA	Rhiannon	Environmental equivalence test	<p>1. Is it correct that supply measures are to be assessed from 2015 onwards using the Environmental Equivalence Test developed by CSIRO, and that the only formal requirement for public consultation on the SDL adjustment mechanism is when the MDBA publishes a draft determination of the amount of the proposed adjustment (Basin Plan s7.06)?  2. If this is correct, will this take place until after 30 June 2016?  3. Will the environmental trade-offs resulting from the proposed supply measures be made public?  4. If so, how and when will the public be consulted?  5. How will the MDBA enhance public confidence in the rigour and outcomes of the Environmental Equivalence Test?  6. Will there be any public consultation on proposed supply measures prior to 30 June 2016?  7. In response to question number 183 (29/10/14) it was stated that "The conditions for efficiency projects are currently being developed ...".  (a) Has this process been finalised and if so will the details be made public?</p>	Written

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				(b) If they have not been finalised when do you expect this will happen and will the details be made public at that stage?	
129	NWC	Xenophon	National Water Initiative	How important do you see the structure of the NWC in continuing to progress national water reform through the development and extension of the National Water Initiative?	Written
130	NWC	Xenophon	Transfer of functions to Productivity Commission	<p>1. In the Senate Committee Report released on 24 November 2014, a number of submissions suggested that if the Productivity Commission was to replace the core functions of the NWC, they would need to replicate a number of functions to succeed. These functions include a triple bottom line approach, expertise and collaboration, and a broad view of water reform issues. Do you believe that these main functions can be suitably replicated by the PC?</p> <p>2. I refer you to the NWC Act, Section 7(d) to 7(j), which relates to the NWC providing information and guidance that promotes the objectives and outcomes of the NWI. Do you believe that these key policies can be appropriately replicated by the PC?</p> <p>3. Due to the size and complex make-up of the PC, do you envisage that research projects on water policy will fall to the bottom of the pile when the Chair is required to compare resources over all other matters that the PC could potentially investigate?</p>	Written
131	NWC	Xenophon	Raise national standards	<p>The National Water Commission was given \$214 million to 'raise national standards' (Information from FOI 050514).</p> <p>1. What does this mean? Please provide details.</p> <p>2. What are these standards and have they been raised? Please provide details.</p> <p>3. How does the department determine this? Please provide details.</p>	Written
132	Science	Ludlam	Rehabilitation security bond	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> I am asking you now. Could you make an undertaking to provide us—and it should be reasonably quick if that policy was assembled for you quite a period of time ago now—the basis of your confidence in the company's ability, whether it has the bond salted away that it is going to be need and whether the requirements are appropriate? Could you please provide that on notice to the committee at your earliest convenience?</p> <p><b>Senator Birmingham:</b> I should say yes, I am sure we will take it on notice. Obviously I am not the minister responsible in this portfolio any more, but the best endeavours to provide that will certainly be made at the earliest convenience, as with all questions on notice.</p>	19
133	Science	Ludlam	Rehabilitation	<b>Senator Birmingham:</b> What the rehabilitation plan costs is something that is assessed. It is assessed not by the OSS but by an independent audit. That is then assessed against the bond,	21



QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
			security bond	<p>as Mr McAllister has said.</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister:</b> That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator Birmingham:</b> We do not assess ERA's corporate finances.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> And I think, Senator Birmingham, one of the things that I thought I had asked you to take on notice, which was not your understanding, was who the third-party auditor was. Can I make sure that that goes into the post box.</p> <p><b>Senator Birmingham:</b> Certainly. We can do that, and we will do that—I do not want to push you from committee to committee, although, again, that may be a contract that is issued by the Department of Industry and Science.</p>	
134	Science	Ludlam	Minesite technical committee	<p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Because time is a little short, could you put to us on notice your expected timeline for when the various components would be set down and either made public or at least put to the MTC.</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister:</b> I can take that on notice, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator LUDLAM:</b> Even explaining, as you have done there, the order in which it rolls out?</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister:</b> I think if I can explain it, on notice, that is probably the best way, because it is a bit of a fluid thing, depending on ERA's current priorities in terms of closure?</p>	22
135	Outcome 1.5 WHM	Rhiannon	Code of practice – killing of joeys	<p>The current federal Code of Practices for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies stipulates that kangaroo joeys must be killed by a forceful blow to the head; or stunned and then decapitated; and at-foot joeys should be shot.</p> <p>The RIRDC's recent report Improving the humaneness of commercial kangaroo harvesting finds that: shooters rarely euthanize young-at-foot dependent joeys, leaving them to die in the field for up to 10 days, and that many shooters swing pouch joeys against their ute tray to kill them.</p> <p>However, in the study's experiments testing the effectiveness of bolt guns to kill joeys, not one of the 23 live joeys was killed outright; 13 out of 23 joeys were not rendered completely insensible, and all joeys had to be consequently euthanized by other means (p54).</p> <p>Given that joeys are not killed immediately or at all via careful blunt head trauma in a controlled situation, is the department concerned at the clear cruelty and trauma being suffered by joeys in the field?</p> <p>a. What is the Department doing about this, given the proven cruelty of suffered by joeys from</p>	Written

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
				<p>kangaroo shooting?</p> <p>b. Does the Department advise importing governments that commercial kangaroo shooters ensure a quick death of joeys?</p> <p>c. How is this justified given the above results provided by scientific experiments?</p> <p>d. Will the Department be advising importing governments of these research results? If not, why not?</p> <p>Has the Department included the results of this 2014 paper in its advice to the Californian government which is deliberating on whether to continue allowing kangaroo product imports? If not, why not?</p>	
136	Outcome 2: CCARE	Waters	Savings from repeal of carbon tax – additional question	I refer to the Department's response to Additional Estimates 2014-15 QoN 71. The answer was only partially provided as it was limited to electricity prices. Can the department please provide the economy wide savings per household broken down by state, including electricity prices.	Written

# ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES –

RESUMPTION HEARING – MONDAY 11 MAY 2015

### ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written
137.	EQD	Waters	Hazardous Waste	<b>Senator WATERS:</b> Lastly, in relation to those particular reform proposals, both the hazardous waste and the liaison with ATO about the recycled oil credit system, can you give me an idea of how many full-time equivalents you have dedicated to those reforms? <b>Mr Thompson:</b> We will take that on notice.	6 11/05/2015
138.	WHM	Singh	World Heritage Committee	<b>Senator Singh:</b> I understand the minister and/or delegates – I am not sure which – have been meeting with their equivalents on the World Heritage Committee. Can you provide a complete list of the representations the minister has made and what dates he made them. <b>Dr Dripps:</b> Yes, I can do that. Would you like me to do that verbally off our notes now or would you like us to take that on notice and provide that to the committee? <b>Senator SINGH:</b> I do not know how many meetings there have been, so I do not know how long your answer will be. <b>Dr Dripps:</b> From 11 April to 17 April, there was engagement between the Ambassador for the Environment and me in Lebanon, Turkey and Qatar. From 9 March to 13 March, the minister travelled to Japan, the Republic of Korea and India. Between 15 February and 21 February, the minister travelled to Jamaica, Colombia and Peru. Between 26 January and 1 February, the minister travelled to Portugal, Finland, Poland and Germany. Between 16 December and 21 December, the minister travelled to the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam. Between 23 and 27 November, the Ambassador for the Environment and I visited Japan and Korea. I do not have in front of me the names of the individuals with whom we met. I can take that question on notice if you wish. <b>Dr Dripps:</b> I may have missed from the previous list that the Ambassador for the Environment visited Kazakhstan in January as part of another trip. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> Still I think we are a couple short. So could you take on notice the list so that we have the whole 19? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> Yes.	7 11/05/2015

139.	WHM	Singh	World Heritage Committee	<b>Dr Dripps:</b> There are 21 different countries and so he has had 21 different sets of advice. I am trying to draw out the general themes for you. There has been advice around making sure that countries are well informed and advised of Australia's responses. There have been responses of satisfaction with the degree of investment and the scope and scale of the long-term sustainability plan. There has been advice about engagement with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and those kinds of things. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> Are you able to provide the committee on notice with a more thorough answer to that question in relation to the advice that was provided by those 19 countries? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> I will endeavour to do so. <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> That material is typically reported through cables and Australia's diplomatic reporting, so I think we will have to consult with our colleagues about that. Are you talking specifically about each country's views or how they are responding to the detail of the state party report or the long-term sustainability plan? We will take that on notice.	8–9 11/05/2015
140.	WHM / EACD	Waters	Abbot Point / World Heritage Committee	<b>Dr Dripps:</b> The topic of what is the status of the environmental impact assessment at Abbot Point and how it is intended to be managed by Australia has come up in a range of discussions, as you would anticipate, given that it was part of the 2014 decision of the World Heritage Committee. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> If you could take on notice the precise concerns that each of those 19 countries has expressed in that series of meetings you went through and provide them to us as soon as you can, that would be very helpful.	9 11/05/2015
141.	WHM	Waters	World Heritage Committee	<b>Senator WATERS:</b> Yes, around the IWC meeting; thank you. Can you tell me how many full-time equivalent staff there are in total and what is the budget from the department for the work that the department has done in concert with DFAT special task force on the reef? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> We have to take that question on notice. As you would appreciate, we have a number of different divisions in the department that are making contributions and various parts of various officers' times, so we will take that on notice.	10 11/05/2015
142.	WHM	Waters	Abbot Point	<b>Dr Dripps:</b> I am just trying to think. I will have to check the details, but Dr Reichelt and I, as part of another trip to Europe, did undertake a briefing of Deutsche Bank and also, on one of the trips to Paris to engage with the World Heritage Committee, I did have a briefing with Societe Generale in Paris. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Was that before or after those institutions said they would not be financing the Abbot Point expansion? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> I would have to check the detail on that; I do not recall. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you. I am very interested in that.	10 11/05/2015

143.	WHM	Singh	World Heritage Committee	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Senator Waters, can I just check something? With that answer about the costings of the delegations, did you, Dr Dripps, say that you would provide that on notice? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> I have just run through it, so it will be in the Hansard now. I can also provide the cost for those trips as an answer to a question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Yes, could you please provide the cost of those trips as a question on notice? <b>Dr Dripps:</b> So the trips with the minister to the World Heritage Committee member countries?</p> <p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> The entire delegation, so yours included—so the 19 representations. <b>Dr Dripps:</b> Yes; that is clear.</p>	10–11 11/05/2015
144.	WHM	Waters	World Heritage Committee	<p><b>Senate WATERS:</b> So how many working days have you spent undertaking that? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> We have been working continually. <b>Dr Dripps:</b> Probably, as part of the answer to the question about how many ASL, we could pick up that question on notice. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Again, do either of you have a ballpark estimation?</p> <p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> It is something that we have an ongoing team working on; I do not have a ballpark figure. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> How many are on the ongoing team? <b>Senator Birmingham:</b> It is important to note the policy work that is undertaken, and that includes policy work in relation to working with the World Heritage Committee around supporting the reef, would be quite minor by comparison with the very significant investments through GBRMPA, through the department and with the Queensland government in the overall management and ongoing protection of the reef. I can see where you are attempting to go. I am sure if the government did not engage with the World Heritage Committee, you or others would be eager to criticise the government. You can criticise us for engaging too much with the World Heritage Committee if you want, but that is part of the value of the policy proposition of making sure that all of the strategies and programs designed to work on the protection of the reef are adequate and successful and, yes, that the World Heritage Committee understands all that we are doing in that respect. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you. Just coming back to that ongoing team you mentioned, how many staff are on that?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> We will take that on notice. As Dr Dripps indicated before—</p>	11 11/05/2015

145.	WHM / EACD	Waters	Abbot Point	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Can I ask now: has the minister or any of the departmental officers met with or spoken to any staff from the Big Four Australian banks about either the Galilee Basin coalmine proposals or Abbot Point? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> We will take that question on notice. Frankly, we talk with everyone in the department. We talk with all sorts of different businesses, as we would talk with all sorts of environment NGOs, community groups and others. As to whether we have had a specific conversation around Abbot Point or other topics, I cannot answer that off the cuff. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> I think you would remember a meeting with one of the Big Four. <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> We certainly meet with the banks but, as to whether that is the main topic of conversation, let me come back to you on that. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> What are you talking about if not those ones? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> We are talking about a range of lots of things. <b>Senator Birmingham:</b> The government's deregulatory agenda, perhaps. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Okay. Well, can you take on notice precisely what it is that you are speaking about with the banks, including whether that is the Galilee Basin and the Abbot Point coal port dimension.</p>	11 11/05/2015
146.	WHM / EACD	Waters	Abbot Point	<p><b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> it is very hard to say, without some further reflection, whether we have had specific conversations about specific projects. But we do talk about sustainable development, the nature of resources and the nature of environment protection in Australia. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Okay. Can you just provide on notice for me the dates, the locations, the folk present at those meetings and the issues that were discussed, particularly whether or not that included the Galilee coalmines and the Abbot Point expansion. Do you recall—if any of the officers are in the room, hopefully they have a good recollection as well— <b>Senator Birmingham:</b> We will take on notice and provide what information can appropriately be provided in that regard.</p>	12 11/05/2015
147.	WHM / EACD	Waters	Big Four Banks – Galilee Mines / Abbot Point	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you. Just one final point: do you recall if any of the officers have ever asked any of the Big Four banks not to make any public statements about whether they would finance the Galilee mines or the Abbot Point coal port expansion? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> I am not aware of that at all. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Not aware or cannot recall? <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> I am not aware. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Could you check on that too. <b>CHAIR:</b> What is the difference between 'cannot recall' and 'not aware'? <b>Senator WATERS:</b> Either he— <b>Dr de Brouwer:</b> I will take it on notice.</p>	12 11/05/2015

148	PAID /CCRE	Singh	Regulatory Measurement Framework	<b>Senator SINGH:</b> Have you done some kind of monitoring or modelling of how you came to a saving of \$85 million? Ms Jensen: We would be happy to provide you more information on notice. Every costing that we do conforms with the regulatory burden measurement framework, which is enforced through the Office of Best Practice Regulation. There is a lot of care and attention given to ensuring that it is through consistent methodology. Based on that methodology and the assessments made in determining what the compliance reduction would be, and knowing that the tax has been repealed, we have confidence that those full compliance reductions at a minimum have been achieved. <b>Senator Birmingham:</b> The regulatory burden framework methodology provides a scintillating read, <b>Senator SINGH:</b> I think I would like to read it, Minister. I would like to take that on notice, if that is all right. If you could provide the methodology and the assessments that were reached by the department in reaching that savings figure that would be beneficial for the committee. Thank you.	16 11/05/2015
149	EACD	Waters	One Stop Shop for Environmental Approvals	<b>Senator WATERS:</b> On that, earlier you implied that after the public consultation period had ended, particularly for Queensland and New South Wales, there might have been some revisions to the draft, based on the public comments received. Can you clarify for me if there have been any revisions based on the public comments and, particularly for Queensland, what are they? <b>Mr Tregurtha:</b> I would have to take that on notice as I was not in the position when the Queensland draft approval bilateral agreement was taken, so I cannot speak to that.	17 11/05/2015
150	EACD	Waters		<b>Senator WATERS:</b> So can you take on notice for me how many staff you are in fact planning to retain or not to undertake those functions, because my understanding from previous estimates is that there was not going to be either any or many, certainly not sufficient to somehow mind-read the state governments and tell the Commonwealth when they need to do their job? Thank you.	19 11/05/2015
151	EACD	Waters	Environmental Assessments	<b>Ms Stagg:</b> The IESC indicate that the proponent could do that work. But in terms of how that is addressed, that is a decision for the minister when he considers this project and whether to give his approval. He would then also consider how those matters should be addressed. Mr Knudson: If I may add, I think it is important to note a couple of key things that came out of IESC's advice. <b>Senator WATERS:</b> I am across that and I am afraid I have only got three minutes. So if you do not mind—and I do not mean to be rude—if you could give that to me in writing at another time, that would be great. I will read that. <b>Senator Birmingham:</b> We can certainly make sure that information is provided because I think it is important to highlight.	20 11/05/2015
152	BCD	Urquhart	Green Army Project	<b>Ms Lane:</b> As of the end of March, approximately 1,400 participants have been engaged in Green Army projects. <b>Senator URQUHART:</b> Do you have a breakdown of where they are? Ms Lane: I could take that on notice.	21 11/05/2015

153	BCD	Urquhart	Green Army Project	<p><b>Senator URQUHART:</b> Do you know how many have achieved certificate qualifications?</p> <p><b>Ms Lane:</b> I do not, but I can take that on notice. However, it was always the intention of the program to allow for a range of training outcomes for participants. So it certainly was not intended that everybody would want or be capable of undertaking a certificate qualification. Certainly, all participants are undertaking those units, so there will be a variety of outcomes.</p>	21 11/05/2015
154	BCD	Urquhart	Green Army Project	<p><b>Senator URQUHART:</b> Okay. How many are continuing through round 1 into round 2? <b>Mr Sullivan:</b> Again, that depends on where the projects are and whether they are sequential. We have a number of projects that are. <b>Senator URQUHART:</b> Do you have that information? <b>Ms Lane:</b> I can take that on notice. We do have a number of repeat participants, though, who are doing it.</p>	22 11/05/2015
155				<p><b>Senator URQUHART:</b> Some of that broader cross rounds information and that sort of information is really useful. <b>Ms Lane:</b> We can give you some detail on notice of the nature of the types of things that participants are undertaking in their training plans, and there are a number of case studies as well that we can provide you with where, for example, participants have talked about particular experiences that they have had within the program, which is not necessarily a certificate qualification—for example, becoming more independent or building on their foundational skills. They are equally as important as skills. <b>Senator URQUHART:</b> I am conscious of time, so I do not want to take up too much of the committee's time. I do not have any further questions, but if you are able to provide that on notice that would be great. Thank you.</p>	22 11/05/2015
156	BCD	Singh	Reef Trust	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> Could you provide that whole suite of projects to the committee and also outline how the offset money concept will work for the Reef Trust? <b>Ms Lane:</b> I can do that. Do you want me to take that on notice or do that now? <b>Senator SINGH:</b> If it is short answer, you can give it. <b>Ms Lane:</b> We are working with a number of approval holders at the moment in relation to some offset funding that is due to come into the trust. But perhaps I can take on notice, if you like, the longer answer around the body of work we are doing there. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> Okay.</p>	23 11/05/2015



157	BCD	Singh	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	<p><b>Senator SINGH:</b> But isn't it the case that that scientific committee is currently made up of only four members, because six of the positions are vacant and have been vacant for a number of months now? That was in response to a question on notice that was provided to this committee.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> We might get Mr Richardson to address that. <b>Mr Richardson:</b> It is true that as of the time of that question being responded to on notice the terms of three members, I think, had expired, and two more were about to. I am pleased to note that as of a date in March—which I can get you if you would like—there have been five members appointed to the committee. It is now a full committee. <b>Senator SINGH:</b> Yes, if you can provide that to the committee, that would be appreciated.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11/05/2015</p>
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