

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

**Question No:** 130  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Programme:** National Water Commission (NWC)  
**Topic:** Transfer of functions to Productivity Commission  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 23 February 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

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?
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?
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?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No.