

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

Question No: 131
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: National Water Commission (NWC)
Topic: Raise national standards
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

The National Water Commission was given \$214 million to 'raise national standards' (Information from FOI 050514).

1. What does this mean? Please provide details.
2. What are these standards and have they been raised? Please provide details.
3. How does the department determine this? Please provide details.

Answer:

1. and 2. The Raising National Water Standards (RNWS) Programme was an Australian Government initiative that supported projects to advance National Water Initiative reforms by improving water management, capacity, knowledge, skills and innovation. The programme was administered by the National Water Commission.

The use of the term 'standards' is used in the context of improving national capacity in water policy and management. The RNWS program supported 178 projects that covered a wide range of issues and themes. Information on the products and outcomes of the Raising National Water Standards programme can be found at <http://archive.nwc.gov.au/rnws>. Further information can also be found in past National Water Commission Annual Reports, which can be found at <http://www.nwc.gov.au/publications/topic/annual-reports>.

3. Evaluation of the performance of the RNWS Programme was undertaken by the National Water Commission in 3 stages. A summary of these evaluations can be found at http://nwc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/25348/RNWS-evaluation-overview.pdf.