

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

Question No: 150
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.4
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division (EACD)
Topic: Staffing
Hansard Page: 20
Question Date: 11 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: 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.

Answer:

As at 31 April 2015 there were 140.1 (Full Time Equivalent) staff engaged in assessment, investigation, compliance and enforcement, and the Department will continue to maintain capabilities across the function of environmental assessments and approvals. All these staff remain available to consider, investigate and, where necessary, assess any action(s) that come to the department's attention and may be likely to have an impact on nationally protected matters.