

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

**Question No:** 111  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Programme:** Science  
**Topic:** Communications Strategy  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

1. In November 2015, and on various other occasions, the IESC “advised the Office of Water Science of the importance of a commissioning an appropriately resourced communications strategy” can you tell us what that means? Communicating to the public?
2. Have you got any resources allocated (either in OWS or in NICNAS) to a communications strategy? How much?

**Answer:**

1. As noted in its meeting minutes, the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC) has commented on the importance of communicating the results of the National assessment of chemicals associated with coal seam gas extraction in Australia clearly to the community and industry.
2. Since mid February 2016, the Department has allocated the equivalent of 2.4 FTE (full time equivalent staff) whose time is mainly working on the development of material to support the release of the assessment.