

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

Question No: 198
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy Analysis and Implementation (PAAI)
Topic: Deregulation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. Please detail changes to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target?
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit.
7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
8. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

The Department of the Environment

1. The Department continues to resource the Environment Portfolio Deregulation Unit.
 - a. To date, the Environment Portfolio has registered net regulatory savings of more than \$1 billion. Annual regulatory savings for the major deregulatory measures are summarised below:

Major deregulatory measures	Annual regulatory savings
'One Stop Shop' environmental approvals process	\$370 million
'One Stop Shop' for offshore petroleum environmental approvals (NOP SEMA)	\$120 million (\$60 million to Environment) (\$60 million to Industry Portfolio)
Repealing the Carbon Tax	\$85 million
Changes to the Renewable Energy Target	\$520 million

2.- 9. Resourcing for the Environment Portfolio Deregulation Unit, including staffing levels and classifications, varies depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action.

Deregulatory activities are being supported from within the Department's existing budget by adjusting internal resources according to normal practice.

Officers have access to relevant Cabinet documents on an as-needs basis and hold the required security clearances.

Portfolio Agencies

There has been no change to structures, officials, offices, units, taskforces or other processes dedicated by the Department of the Environment's Portfolio Agencies to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets during this period.