

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

Question No: 204
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Contracting arrangements
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Question Date: 08 February 2016
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: Is there a possibility that former BOM staff may be employed as contractors to do that work?

Dr Barrell: It is a possibility. If, for instance, staff do take a redundancy and stay in town, there is a possibility they may be able to be reused in that role. Let me just clarify. The technical work requires electrical skills. Some of the cooperative observations that currently happen are a much more general skill base, and we train people to do that work.

Senator RICE: Do you think it is likely that some of the current observers would take on those jobs as contractors?

Dr Barrell: It is possible.

Senator RICE: Would it be the same level of work as they are currently doing?

Dr Barrell: No. It would be a very much part-time role.

Senator RICE: What do you see the role being, compared with what the current situation is?

Dr Barrell: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the detail. But it would certainly be less than a 10th of the role they currently have, so it would be very much a part-time role.

Answer:

Should a contractor be required at an automated site, the total amount of work required would be approximately one day per week. This requirement would vary based on the type and frequency of automated observations at the site and the configuration of systems such as automated balloon launchers.