

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

Question No: 128
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: EFFICIENCY DIVIDENDS
Hansard Page: 18
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Factoring in all of those annual efficiency dividends and then the additional ones on top of them, what has been the reduction to the department's funding in real terms over the last decade?

Dr de Brouwer: That one we will have to take on notice. We have a sense for recent efficiency dividends. The efficiency dividends, as the minister said, are complex creatures because there are different kinds of efficiency dividends. There are ones that are a permanent reduction of dollar value to the department's budget and there are ones that are just a one-off in the year and which are then reversed or stopped the following year.

Answer:

It is not possible to provide an accurate response for the time period requested due to various changes to the Department's functional responsibilities, budgeting systems, indexation and the commencement and end of various programs during the 10 year period.