

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

Question No: 129
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PBS: OUTCOME 1
Hansard Page: 21
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: I am going to ask you about the budget. Previous outcomes 2 and 5 are now rolled into outcome 1. Can you explain how the budget for the new outcome is \$142.3 million less in 2014–15 than the previous budget for those combined outcomes? Are functions being discontinued or delegated?

Dr de Brouwer: That is a very broad question, Senator. I have it at 100 less.

Senator URQUHART: You are saying \$100 million less, not \$140 million?

Ms Carlos: The table on page 35 of the PBS document has the outcome funding from the estimated total funding for expenses from 2013–14 through to 2014-15, and that is as Dr de Brouwer said, \$816 million down to \$716 million. The funding for each of those structures has been mapped like-for-like. So it is a \$100 million reduction and that is across all of not only departmental but administered functions as well.

Senator URQUHART: I am happy for you to provide the details on notice if you can, and then I can provide you with a bit more detail.

Dr de Brouwer: Yes, thank you. Looking at that table in program 1.3, I suspect that a large part of that reduction is going to relate to changes around some of the carbon arrangements, particularly around the biodiversity fund. We'll come back on that.

Answer:

The \$100 million reduction in Outcome 1 is a net result and is predominately related to the discontinuing of functions within programme 1.3 as a result of the 2013 election commitment to abolish the carbon tax and related Clean Energy Future programmes. The funding for these programmes is winding down until ceasing in 2017-18.

The Suburban Jobs programme will also be discontinued, the funding profile decreases in the final year of 2014-15.

The Department was also subject to Machinery of Government changes functions from Outcome 1. Funding was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for delivery of Indigenous functions.

These reductions are offset by funding received for the establishment of Green Army, which is an ongoing sub-programme that commences in 2014-15.