

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

**Question No:** 183  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)  
**Topic:** PORTFOLIO WIDE - REVIEWS  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 11 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

What reviews are planned?

- a) When will each planned review be commenced?
- b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c) When will government respond to each review?
- d) Will the government release each review?
- e) If so, when? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

**Department of the Environment**

a-e) Please see table 1 for the four reviews that were planned as of 30 April 2014.

**Portfolio Agencies**

a-e) Please see table 2 for the four reviews that were planned as of 30 April 2014 by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Climate Change Authority.

The remaining Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions:  
Bureau of Meteorology; Clean Energy Regulator; Director of National Parks; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

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**Table 1: Department of the Environment**

| What reviews are planned?                                                                                                                                      | a) When will each planned review be commenced? | b) When will each of these reviews be concluded? | c) When will government respond to each review? | d) Will the government release each review? | d.i. If so, when?<br>d.ii If not, why not? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review                                                                                                                         | Yet to be determined                           | Yet to be determined                             | Yet to be determined                            | Yet to be determined                        | The terms of reference are being finalised |
| 2. Independent Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (in accordance with Clause 29 of the Agreement) | July 2014                                      | 31 December 2014                                 | Yet to be determined                            | Yes                                         | By 31 December 2014                        |
| 3. Emissions Reduction Fund Review                                                                                                                             | Late 2015 (TBC)                                | Yet to be determined                             | Yet to be determined                            | Yet to be determined                        | Yet to be determined                       |

| <b>What reviews are planned?</b>                                 | <b>a) When will each planned review be commenced?</b> | <b>b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?</b> | <b>c) When will government respond to each review?</b> | <b>d) Will the government release each review?</b> | <b>d.i. If so, when?<br/>d.ii If not, why not?</b>                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Second Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity | Following appointment of the Expert Panel members     | 22 October 2014                                         | Yet to be determined                                   | Yes                                                | Within 20 business days of the report being provided to the Environment Minister |

**Table 2: Portfolio Agencies**

| What reviews are planned?                                                                                                        | a) When will each planned review be commenced? | b) When will each of these reviews be concluded? | c) When will government respond to each review?                                                                                                                                                | d) Will the government release each review? | d.i. If so, when?<br>d.ii If not, why not?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Australia's Progress to Meeting its Emission Reduction Targets and National Carbon Budget                                     | July 2014 (TBC)                                | 28 February 2015                                 | Within six months of receiving the Authority's report.                                                                                                                                         | Yes                                         | The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report. |
| 2. Review of the Baseline Diversion Limit and Sustainable Diversion Limit of the Goulburn-Murray Sedimentary Plain Resource Unit | June 2014                                      | October 2014                                     | The outcomes of the review will inform consideration by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as to whether a change to the Basin Plan in regard to this groundwater system should be progressed. | Yes                                         | Late 2014 or early 2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| <b>What reviews are planned?</b>                                            | <b>a) When will each planned review be commenced?</b> | <b>b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?</b> | <b>c) When will government respond to each review?</b> | <b>d) Will the government release each review?</b> | <b>d.i. If so, when?<br/>d.ii If not, why not?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. Review of the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011</i> | July 2014 (TBC)                                       | 31 December 2014                                        | Within six months of receiving the Authority's report. | Yes                                                | The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report. |
| 4. Review of the Renewable Energy Target                                    | July 2014 (TBC)                                       | 31 December 2014                                        | Within six months of receiving the Authority's report. | Yes                                                | The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report. |