

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

Question No: 209
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – contracts for Temporary staff
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

How much did the department/agency spend on temporary or contract staff since September 7th 2013?

- a) How many temporary or contract staff were employed since September 7th 2013?
- b) How many temporary or contract staff are currently employed?
- c) How much was paid for agencies/companies to find temporary/contract staff?
- d) How much is budgeted in the 2014/15 year for contract staff?

What policies/criteria govern the appointment of Contract staff?

How is the use of contract staff consistent with a professional, independent public service?

Answer:

Department/Agency	Amount spent on non-ongoing employees between 7/9/13 and 30/4/14	No of non-ongoing employees engaged between 7/9/13 and 30/4/14 (a)	No of non-ongoing employees employed as at 30/4/14 (b)	Amount paid to agencies/companies to find non-ongoing employees (c)	Amount budgeted in 2014/15 for non-ongoing employees (d)
Department	\$12,609,398	76	302	No central record kept. Engagement of non-ongoing employees is a devolved responsibility.	No specific amount budgeted for non-ongoing employees.
Bureau of Meteorology	\$1.66 million	47	212	Nil	\$21.5 million
Clean Energy Regulator	\$562,772	5	11	\$33,079	No specific amount budgeted for non-ongoing employees.
Climate Change Authority	\$267,790	4	4	Nil	Nil
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	\$1,999,844	92	78	Nil	No specific amount budgeted for non-ongoing employees.
Murray Darling Basin Authority	\$413,583	9	20	No central record kept. Engagement of non-ongoing employees is a devolved responsibility.	No specific amount budgeted for non-ongoing employees.
National Water Commission	\$164,926	6	3	Nil	No specific amount budgeted for non-ongoing employees.
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	\$532,993	16	56	\$36,104	\$4,905,807

¹Includes information for the Director of National Parks

The Department and portfolio agencies engage non-ongoing employees in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Service Act 1999* and *Public Service Regulations 1999*, with the exception of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (see below).

Non-ongoing employees are engaged to meet staffing needs when suitable ongoing employees are not available. Non-ongoing employees are engaged for:

- a specified term or for the duration of a specified task or
- for duties that are irregular or intermittent.

Non-ongoing employees are required to comply with the provisions of the APS Code of Conduct and APS Values.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Trust does not employ staff under the Public Service Act 1999. Its staff are recruited according to the provisions of its Employment Contracts Procedure, Recruitment and Selection Procedures and the Enterprise Agreement 2012.

The Trust is a small and constantly evolving organisation with a limited life. Contract staff allow close alignment of specific projects with appropriately qualified people for a specified period. This results in a better use of public monies and a more efficient provision of service.