

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

Question No: 35
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDING
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Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Thank you very much. The Australian Heritage Council received \$50,000 a year for three years. How does this compare with current funding to the council and would it be additional to current funding?

Mr Oxley: This is a new funding allocation to the Heritage Council over and above the resourcing that the department currently provides to underpin the Heritage Council's operations.

Senator URQUHART: If it is over and above, what is the total amount?

Mr Oxley: Senator, we will need to take that on notice. It is a complex question because in many respects a large part of the operations of the Heritage Branch in the department is directed towards the business of the Australian Heritage Council—not exclusively—and it may be quite a difficult thing for us to disaggregate that and the resources required to do so. So, if you do not mind, I would like to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: Yes, that is fine—thank you

Answer:

The total funding allocated to the Australian Heritage Council in the 2013-14 financial year for salaries and meeting costs for Council members was \$358,497. The council additionally utilises two of the Department's staff for secretariat services. The Department's Heritage Branch has approximately 30 staff who to varying degrees may be engaged in aspects of the council's work, according to the council's work program and departmental priorities.