

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

**Question No:** 60  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
**Topic:** EPBC BILLS - RIS  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 17 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

On what grounds did OBPR decide that the latest EPBC bills did not require any regulatory impact statements?

What is the average saving of time expected? Can the department provide a list of the 30 most recent concluded EPBC referrals indicating whether State or local government approvals were still outstanding at the time the Commonwealth referral was concluded, and when those projects received their final State and local government approval?

**Answer:**

The Government's one stop shop for environmental approvals policy is being implemented using the existing provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (the EPBC Act) that provide for bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.

The amendments in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 are largely technical and facilitate implementation of the Government's one stop shop policy.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation agreed that the regulatory costs from the amendments are zero (Office of Best Practice Regulation proposal ID 15330).

The Department is working to calculate the expected regulatory costs savings for business from the one stop shop using the methodology outlined in the Australian Government's Regulatory Burden Measurement Framework. Once finalised, the estimate of savings will be made publicly available.

Information on Commonwealth approvals under the EPBC Act is available at the Department's website here: [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc\\_ap.pl?name=invitation\\_to\\_comment&limit=999&text\\_search=](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=invitation_to_comment&limit=999&text_search=)

Information on state and territory approvals is available on their respective websites.