

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

Question No: 83
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Renewables Projections & Governance Division)
Topic: CARBON TAX - ASSISTANCE PACKAGE
Hansard Page: 90
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Ruston asked:

Senator RUSTON: What was the total amount of the funding of the compensation and the financial assistance packages that sat alongside the introduction of this carbon tax?

Mr Writer: I think last time you asked us a question on notice about this issue. It was question 69. What was provided there were some tables that were included with the original carbon tax legislation. There has been no total quantification as those programs have been rolled out. I cannot off the top of my head give you the figure; my maths is not that good. But we can try to provide something on notice if you would like.

Senator RUSTON: I was interested to do a comparison of the \$7-odd billion that has been paid that has obviously been translated to the households—how much was paid out in terms of compensation to make up for that increase against what was actually achieved in terms of the carbon emission benefit to Australia would be interesting, in three little columns.

Mr Writer: I do not know that that analysis has been done.

Dr Kennedy: We are happy to take that on notice and provide that information.

Answer:

Please refer to the Department's previous response to Question on Notice 69, from the Senate Additional Estimates hearing of the Standing Committee on Environment and Communications on 24 February 2014.

In that response, the Department provided budgeted costs for all financial grants and assistance programmes introduced as part of the previous Government's Clean Energy Future package. These budgeted costs remain the best estimate of how much has been paid out in compensation to households and businesses, and any updates to these figures are the responsibility of the individual agencies responsible for implementing each programme.

For 2012-13, emissions reported by businesses covered by the carbon tax totalled 285 million tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO_{2-e}) greenhouse gases. This equates to a total direct carbon tax liability of \$6.56 billion at \$23 a tonne. Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions for 2012-13 (covered and uncovered) were 546 million tonnes CO_{2-e}, as reported in the Department's National Greenhouse Gas Accounts.