

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

Question No: 160
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2.2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy
Topic: Budget for program 2.2
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Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Can you run us through the budget for program 2.2 please.

Mr Parker: We can give you some staffing numbers, but we would be struggling at this point to break the budget down to that level of detail.

Senator URQUHART: Can you break it down on notice and give us the details of the staff as of now?

Mr Parker: Yes, beyond the stuff that is actually in the PBS.

Dr de Brouwer: Let me approach your question in a different way, and we will go through the climate change adaptation. There are probably four direct areas where the department is actively involved in climate change adaptation.

Answer:

As at June 2015, the Climate Adaptation Team has a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level of 7.9. This team is responsible for these elements of programme 2.2:

- Managing the renewed funding for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility; and
- Providing access to information and best practice guidance on adaptation to climate risks and decision makers across governments, business and communities.

Further, a FTE staffing level of 1.5 is allocated in the Science Partnerships Section under programme 2.2 to deliver Stream 2 of the Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund, which involves supporting:

- CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver updated climate change projections for Australia; and
- Nine research teams from around Australia to work closely with natural resource management organisations to respond to their information needs in relation to climate change adaptation and impacts.

Climate change adaptation work is embedded across four other areas of the Department including water, biodiversity conservation, the Antarctic and marine divisions. It is not possible to ascertain the FTE staffing for this work due to the highly integrated nature of adaptation across the Department.