

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

Question No: 164
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2.1
Programme: Emissions Reduction Fund
Topic: Abatement from halting highlands logging
Hansard Page: 122-123
Question Date: 26 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Rice asked:

Senator RICE: In January The Age newspaper published an article entitled 'Highlands logging halt would earn Victoria \$30m a year in emissions reductions: report'. The article referred to a methodology that would need to be approved to calculate the CO2 emissions saved from ceasing logging of native forests. What can you tell me about this report?

Dr de Brouwer: I think the issues around methodology were really discussed in 2.1, in the climate change discussion. We have experts on land sector methods, and those officers are not here now. We can take that question on notice for them.

Senator RICE: Okay. I wanted to know whether that report was publicly available. I have written to the minister to seek a copy but have not had a response yet.

Dr de Brouwer: There is no-one here who can answer that.

Senator Birmingham: Sorry, Senator Rice; what is the report you were quoting from?

Senator RICE: It is a report that I understand is with the minister, which has got information saying that, if logging ceased in the Central Highlands, it would be of \$30 million a year value in emissions reductions. It would mean that there would be 3.2 megatonnes of carbon sequestered if we ceased logging.

Dr de Brouwer: I am just not aware of that report, and the team who work in detail on that are not here at the moment. We can only take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Department is not familiar with the report referenced in the article in the Age newspaper. The article indicates that the report was written by academics from the Australian National University and the Department is not aware whether it is publically available.