

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

Question No: 183
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4.1
Programme: Water (WTR)
Topic: Cost per gigalitre under buyback
Hansard Page: 106
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Mr Slatyer: 581.4 gigalitres in long-term average annual yield terms. By recovered I include there, as I said before, water that is under contract for recovery. So not all that water has yet been formally conveyed and transferred to the environmental water holder.

Senator SINGH: That is good to know. When I get the other figures, I will not be—

Mr Slatyer: These numbers are not reconciled with the numbers that Mr Papps will give you.

Senator SINGH: Yes. Thank you for clarifying that. Of water contracted to date, what is the average cost per gigalitre under buyback?

Mr Slatyer: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator SINGH: Okay, and the follow-on question I was going to ask is: what is the average cost per gigalitre under contracted environmental water recovery infrastructure?

Mr Slatyer: It will not be difficult to do those calculations. If we can provide you that information during the hearings we will.

Senator SINGH: On and off farm.

Mr Slatyer: Otherwise we will take it on notice.

Senator SINGH: All right. Thank you.

Answer:

As at 30 April 2015, the average cost of water entitlements recovered through purchasing activities under the *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin Program* is \$1,584,622 per gigalitre.

As at 30 April 2015, the average cost of water entitlements recovered through infrastructure activities funded under the *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program* is \$3,125,418 per gigalitre for the on-farm component and \$5,657,300 per gigalitre for the off-farm component.