

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

Question No: 184
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Science
Topic: Office of Water Science - Commissioned research
Hansard Page: Page 110
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Ms Milnes: For this research that is being undertaken, it is commissioned by the Office of Water Science and the funding is provided to whoever is commissioned to undertake the work by the Office of Water Science.

Senator WATERS: How much money do you have to dole out for that purpose?

Ms Milnes: Our budget there has been more than a few million dollars each year.

Senator WATERS: Can you be any more specific?

Ms Milnes: Yes. I can, perhaps, take that question on notice and provide you with some further details.

Senator WATERS: More than a few. Less than 10, though?

Ms Milnes: Less than 10, generally. And it varies from year to year.

Senator WATERS: I will accept these on notice, but it is good to have a ballpark—

Answer:

The Department has spent approximately \$15 million on research into the water related impacts of coal seam gas and coal mining development.

This funding is additional to the Government's Bioregional Assessment Programme, which has a budget of approximately \$86 million, and is being delivered through a collaboration between the Department, the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, with input from state governments, natural resource management bodies and others.