

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

Question No: 185
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Science
Topic: National Partnership Agreement Funding
Hansard Page: Page 110
Question Date: 25 May 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Dr de Brouwer: You mentioned at the start, or during, the conversation that the majority of the money went to the states. With the national partnership arrangements, \$50 million out of that 200 went to the states. So it was not the majority. It was a sizeable proportion, but the majority did not go to the states directly through the national partnership arrangement.

Senator WATERS: It was not 50 per state. It was 50 all up?

Dr de Brouwer: Total of 50—or 49-point-something. Roughly 50.

Senator WATERS: Where did the rest of the 150 go?

Dr de Brouwer: Where Ms Milnes has gone through—

Senator WATERS: 150 and 10 are quite different.

Dr de Brouwer: It is also over a number of years.

Senator WATERS: Four years now, yes.

Dr de Brouwer: Some of what Ms Milnes was talking about was expenditure per year as opposed to over—

Senator WATERS: Thank you. Perhaps you could also take on notice, just to clarify, where that 150 got spent. I have asked this before, but I just cannot remember what the answer was. If you have got that to hand, that would be helpful.

Ms Milnes: Yes, I can take that on notice.

Answer:

In November 2011, \$150 million was allocated to the Department to establish and support the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC), and to fund bioregional assessments and other priority research into the water related impacts of coal seam gas and large coal mining activities. This funding was provided for the period 2011-12 to 2015-2016.