

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

Question No: 189
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome:
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: BoM - Offshore Oil and gas work
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Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Can you tell me about your offshore oil and gas work? How many staff do you have through that capital program working on offshore oil and gas?

Dr Vertessy: I might go to Dr Canterford on that.

Dr Canterford: We do have some figures here. I have an approximate number of about 30, but I would need to check our table.

Senator WATERS: So it is about the same amount of people doing climate change work as doing offshore oil and gas?

Dr Canterford: Let me confirm the number first.

Ms Middleton: In terms of our external revenue, in the last financial year, 2013-14, we generated about \$74 million worth of revenue. In terms of headcount that equated to roughly 300 staff at one time or another during the course of that financial year that were actively engaged in delivering services that were funded from the private sector. We provide about \$6 million worth of commercial weather services to the offshore oil and gas industry. Those are bespoke services, where the oil and gas industry is looking for additional services beyond what we traditionally provide to the public—beyond what we are appropriated to provide. Specifically, it is around early warnings regarding tropical cyclones and other events that affect their production. So they are quite specific services where the industry actually defines the parameters and the nature of the service that they want and they pay to have dedicated forecasters available to provide that service to them.

Answer:

The Bureau provides tailored services to the oil and gas industry on a fee for service basis. On average there are 14 externally funded full time staff working in the provision of tailored weather services for offshore oil and gas clients. In addition there are a further seven externally funded staff engaged in support and research services for oil and gas industry clients. The number of externally funded staff varies with changes in the needs of clients.