

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

**Question No:** 66  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:**  
**Programme:** Science  
**Topic:** Funding and staffing - environmental information  
**Hansard Page:** 12  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Waters asked:**

**Senator WATERS:** I was going to ask how much funding and staff time is allocated to consolidating environmental information on a continental scale particularly about biodiversity. Would you consider that you could describe the work that you have outlined as consolidating that information?

**Ms Olsson:** I would probably have to take that on notice. We have a number of staff involved in all of the databases that were referred to before We have staff involved in the essential measures program and in SoE, but it would be not possible for me, off the top of my head, to come up with a figure for you.

**Answer:**

The Environmental Resources Information Network, Science and Monitoring Branch within the Science Division consolidates data on biodiversity.

Within the Branch approximately 12.5 full-time equivalent staff consolidate biodiversity data and information, manage the database systems, and undertake analyses at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million per annum.

Biodiversity information activities are also undertaken in other areas across the Department. Details of staff time and funding across the whole of the Department are not included in the figures provided.