

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

**Question No:** 70  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:**  
**Programme:** Science  
**Topic:** Funding variation for program support  
**Hansard Page:** 94  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Right, but that does not explain the figure under here for the program support through the forward estimates. Can you explain that to me?

**Dr Wright:** Not the program support. We were referring to the NRM for climate change line, which is 1.2—

**Senator URQUHART:** The top one.

**Dr Wright:** We have a component of that, and a component is with another program.

**Senator URQUHART:** Okay.

**Dr de Brouwer:** It seems that we cannot answer the question.

**Senator URQUHART:** If you can take it on notice, that is fine.

**Dr de Brouwer:** We will take it on notice. I will add, though, that with the climate change adaptation there are lots of other areas of activity in the department that cover adaptation. You already have the National Environmental Science Program material. Earth sciences is one of the core areas, but certainly the marine, air and tropical water is also clearly climate change adaptation. Also, in the Antarctic program there are some very core bits of research being done on the impact of acidification on krill or other exoskeletal creatures and ecosystems that are important for understanding the environment and fisheries in the longer term. So there is a variety of work being done in the department around adaptation beyond these.

**Answer:**

On page 62 of the Environment Portfolio Budget Statements, a table outlines the annual administered and departmental expenses for 'Programme 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change'. The amount allocated to 'departmental programme support' is used by the relevant portfolio agency to fund staff, resources and other expenses to manage the delivery of the *Natural Resource Management for Climate Change* and *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility* programmes. Activities that contribute to the delivery of these programmes include managing grant funding arrangements, monitoring activity under the programme, communicating programme aims and outcomes, and brokering knowledge between funding partners, government and other key stakeholders.