

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 211
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Budget Savings from Decommissioned Weather Stations
Hansard Page: 45 and 46
Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Chisholm asked:

Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of the budget saving from these changes, is that something that has been identified?

Dr Johnson: Certainly the changes that we have made have delivered savings to the bureau. These savings are absolutely critical in terms of ensuring that we can provide an ongoing service for the infrastructure that we do choose to retain.

Senator CHISHOLM: Are you able to identify what that is in terms of the amount of money?

Dr Johnson: I do not have that with me, I do not think, but I could certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

The automation of field stations has been designed to improve the skill of forecasting and ongoing improvement to information for local communities, while managing future costs of operation. The changes in observational infrastructure will also enable control of future costs (such as labour and consumables, Consumer Price Index increases and other factors outside the Bureau's control).

Comparing the projected costs of the former, staffed model to the automated model of operation, cost reductions are estimated at just over \$12 million over five years. This represents approximately seven per cent reduction in costs. These reductions align with projected budgets and allow the Bureau to meet its government-mandated efficiency targets whilst continuing to deliver a comprehensive observations program to support its weather services.