

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

Question No: 4
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: Legal
Topic: Environmental legislation
Hansard Page: 87
Question Date: 23 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Roberts asked:

Senator ROBERTS: It is fundamental when making legislation, surely, that we know what legislation already exists, so I have only three short questions. How many pieces of environmental legislation and regulations have been passed, amended and repealed since 1901, or at least since 1967, particularly climate related ones since 1992, at federal, state, territory and local levels? I can put that on notice.

Ms Evans: I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The work involved in determining how many pieces of environmental legislation and regulations have been passed, amended and repealed since 1901, or at least since 1967, particularly climate related ones since 1992, at the Commonwealth level would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Department from its other operations. This is because the search would involve, at a minimum, a search of everything enabled by those Acts listed in the Administrative Arrangements Order and repealed by those Acts; anything enabled by the things enabled by the Act; Acts or legislative instruments in force; and Acts or legislative instruments no longer in force (ceased to have effect) and repealed items, dating back a substantial period of time.

A list of legislation administered by the Department of the Environment and Energy is available in the Administrative Arrangements Order. A copy of this document is available at:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/administrative-arrangements-order-amendment-made-13-april-2017> (accessed 22 June 2017).

Current and historical information on Commonwealth legislation (including regulations) is available on the Federal Register of Legislation: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/> (accessed 22 June 2017). Instructions on how to use and search the register are available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Content/Help> 'How to use the Legislation Register' (accessed 22 June 2017).

Information relating to the Government's regulation reform commitments is available from 'Cutting Red Tape: The Australian Government's online resource for regulation reform':

<https://www.cuttingredtape.gov.au/resources> (accessed 22 June 2017).

Current and historical information on state, territory and local legislation and regulation is likely to be available from the publisher of legislation (usually called the Office of Parliamentary Counsel) and/ or libraries.