

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

**Question No:** 62  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Support your Local Parks and Environment Program  
**Hansard Page:**  
**Question Date:** 07 June 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

Support Your Local Parks and Environment Program (includes the Surf Life Saving Clean Outboard Engines Scheme)

1. Was the department aware of environment funds being spent on motors in the past?
2. Has there been research into the age and pollution produced by current motors used by surf life savers?
3. Is this a widespread problem?
4. When did the department first become aware of the problem?

**Answer:**

1. No.
2. Consultations with Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) indicate that nearly all of the approximately 1300 outboard motors currently owned by the 312 surf lifesaving clubs around Australia would not meet the proposed emissions standards for non-road spark ignition engines and equipment (includes outboard motors). SLSA estimates that outboard motors are replaced every two years, on average.
3. Small hand held and outboard motors are a significant source of pollution because they generally do not have the same advanced emission controls found in on-road engines. These products can emit air pollutants at very high rates relative to their size. It has been estimated that these small engines can contribute up to 10 per cent of the overall level of air pollutants in urban environments, especially during peak times

The proposed standards have not yet been legislated. The Minister will be seeking the start of emission standards from July 2018. The proposed standards will only apply to new engines, so surf life saving clubs can continue to operate their existing engines until they decide to replace them.

4. The Department, along with State and Territory agencies, have been working with the sector on options to address emissions from non-road spark ignition engines for over ten years.