

Budget Estimates May 2017

Environment and Energy Portfolio – Monday 22, May and Tuesday, 23 May 2017

Question No	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing	PDR Number
1	Corporate: PAAI	Moore	Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) workshop	<p>Senator MOORE: On notice, can I get some information about that particular process in terms of what the intent is, the planning around it, who is going to go and that kind of thing, as that information becomes available? I understand that it is evolving at the moment, but can I get that on notice rather than taking this time?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: I will try to give you the information now, because the timelines for that may not fit the questions on notice timeframe. The agreement to that being the next step in terms of consultation came from a conversation probably two months ago between Australia's regional councillor for the IUCN, Peter Cochrane, and me. We met with Foreign Affairs and Trade officials to let them know that we were proposing to do this. Foreign Affairs and Trade and Prime Minister and Cabinet will attend that workshop. The actual timing for the workshop has not been finally locked down. I have to go through a negotiation phase within the ACIUCN executive. That will probably be finalised over the next three to four weeks. That will then be sent to all ACIUCN representatives. In terms of who will attend that and who will not, I can give you, on notice, the list of who those representatives are.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: That would be good.</p>	Page 6 and 7 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000352

2	Corporate: PAAI	Moore	List of workshops the Department has participated in regarding sustainable development goals	<p>Senator MOORE: Can I get a list of the ones you have participated in? I do not think there have been many—</p> <p>Mr Thompson: No, there has not been a huge number.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: but I would like to get a list of the ones that you have—</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I hope there are more than the one I have mentioned. That is the one I remember.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: If we can get a list of the ones you have participated in and who attended, that would be useful. Mr Sullivan, in terms of process, when you do get the kind of statement that is going out to the ACIUCN members about what it is all about, can I get a copy of the information that goes out?</p> <p>Mr Sullivan: Certainly—I am happy to provide that.</p>	Page 7 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000354
3	Corporate: PAAI	Reynolds	Sustainable development goals – cross portfolio	<p>CHAIR: It struck me because Austrade and DFAT are aware of what they are doing but it is not specifically their responsibility. They look at it more as a mining, energy or environmental issue. Would you mind taking on notice for me to see if there is a way that it can be done cross-portfolio? There is a lot of good work and if we could capture that model—what has been done in the environment, in your portfolio, and in others—it would be a great template for others globally but also, to pick up on the issues Senator Moore raised, bring some of those lessons home as well.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We will do that.</p>	Page 10 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000358
4	Corporate: Legal	Roberts	Environmental legislation	<p>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</p>	Page 87 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000359

				<p>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.</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that question on notice.</p>		
5	Corporate: Science	Moore	Promotion of the State of the Environment Report	<p>Mr Thompson: The State of the Environment report is the most comprehensive assessment of Australia's environment across a number of domains. It is a report which is required under the EPBC Act to be tabled by the Australian government in the parliament every five years. The centrepiece action in terms of promoting it is really the minister's decision to table the State of the Environment report. Importantly this year it takes the form primarily of a digital platform rather than a physical paper report. There is a short overview which is available in paper form but it is the digital platform which is the tool that we are directing people to. Around the time when the minister tabled the report he wrote a piece—for the <i>Guardian</i>, I think—that was published at that time. The tool was made available on our website and also has its own dedicated website, as you would expect for a platform of that kind.</p> <p>We have also been working and had done some prior spadework on with a number of organisations, including the Global Compact for business, to promote the State of the Environment platform. The lead author, Dr Bill Jackson, participated in a webinar relating to the State of the Environment and informing members of that compact of the main findings of the report. We are also rolling out a range of other communication tools and products, including through the Australian Environmental</p>	Page 10 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000360

				<p>Grantmakers Network, which is the philanthropy sector; the education sector, through teachers who teach environment and science; and a number of other quarters. We will provide briefings to senior officials of the jurisdictions of state and territory governments in the future as well.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can we get a report on the program around that? It is a wide-ranging program you have set out, and this is into the future. It has come out in a different format this time, so there is a kind of threshold difference. Can we get some information from you in detail as it comes through rather than taking up too much time talking about it?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, we are happy to do that.</p>		
6	Corporate: Science	Moore	State of the Environment Report	<p>Senator MOORE: —are there staff permanently allocated to the issues around the State of the Environment report? At the time of the creation, of course—but in that five-year in-between period is there ongoing work within the department on reviewing it, evaluating it and working on how it should best work? Is there a team that does that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Clearly, as you say, there is a largish team under a director who is responsible for preparing the State of the Environment report and supporting the independent lead authors. That is a sort of surge activity over 2½ or three years. That surge has now come off but we still have a State of the Environment team under a director. Their role now is really to undertake some of the communications activities that we have identified to promote the digital platform within the department, across the Commonwealth and more broadly, and also to continue to explore how we can keep the State of the Environment as a more current report using the digital platform. They are working now</p>	Page 11 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000361

				<p>on that range of issues. I could not tell you how big that team is. It would be in the order of four or five people.</p> <p>Senator MOORE: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>		
7	Corporate: CSD	Roberts	Salary and entitlements	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Cost of living is a very significant issue for people in Queensland and across Australia. In Queensland we are now heading for a doubling of cost of energy for consumers and industry compared with recent years. In fact one supermarket chain, a small chain, had a 20 per cent increase from last year to this year in its energy bill. That is significant. We in this room are all paid by taxpayers. The Australian people would like to know what you are paid, Dr Brouwer, on an annual basis including all entitlements.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have it here. My salary is on the public record though. But I will come back to you.</p>	Page 15 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000362
8	Corporate: CSD	Roberts	Staff salaries	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Can you also provide the position titles of all staff who receive salaries all inclusive of over \$250,000 a year?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I will take that one on notice. There is a discussion around how we report executive salaries, and I want to be as transparent as possible around that, so let me take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you.</p>	Page 15 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000364
9	Corporate: CSD	Urquhart	Labour hire agreements	<p>Senator URQUHART: Does the department use labour hire agreements? Do you have agreements with the companies that use labour hire?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: I am going to take that one notice because there are a variety of ways you can use labour hire. I just want to make sure I answer that</p>	Page 70 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000366

				correctly.		
10	Corporate: CSD	Urquhart	Labour hire companies	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me how long the department has used labour hire companies?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: I would not be able to give you an exact time frame, but it has always been a possibility to use for intermittent labour, depending on workloads.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand that. The question was: how long has the department used them?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 70 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000367
11	Corporate: CSD	Urquhart	Labour hire	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Can you tell me how many staff are employed under these arrangements? I am aware that it probably fluctuates, but perhaps you can give me some details around that.</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: For the whole of the department, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me how many staff are employed by the department as contractors as opposed to labour hire?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Senator, as you know, that fluctuates an awful lot because of the Antarctic and the parks—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, I am fully aware of that. My previous life was involved in industries that use labour hire, so I am aware of how it operates.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We will try to give you a sense of what the peaks and troughs are like and the average.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you.</p>	Page 70 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000368
12	Corporate:	Urquhart	Reliance on labour	<p>Senator URQUHART: Are you aware of the</p>	Page 70	SQ17-000370

	CSD		hire	<p>reliance on labour hire arrangements? Is there a reliance on the use of labour hire?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: It depends on how you define the word 'reliance' We would use them intermittently, as I said, depending on the peaks and troughs of work.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I guess it depends on whether you need to use labour hire as opposed to, maybe, a non-ongoing or casual employee because of the skill level or something like that?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: It may be that situation.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Could you look at that and maybe provide some further information on notice?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: Yes, I will.</p>	Tuesday 23 May	
13	Corporate: CSD	Urquhart	Training of labour hire staff	<p>Senator URQUHART: Do staff under labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: In terms of training, if we were going to use a labour hire company, we would be sourcing them because of their skills, so that is unlikely. In terms of the security clearance required, it would depend on the position they were required to work in.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understand the bit about the skills, but what I found generally in workplaces is that somebody may actually have the skills to do the job but they need further training in that position, depending on the environment that they are in. You would do the same for permanent staff in that arrangement?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: For permanent staff, if they needed to—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No, the same for labour hire as permanent staff.</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: I would have to take it on notice, because—</p>	Page 70 and 71 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000371

				<p>Senator URQUHART: You have procedures. You have fire training. Surely, you would put them through that same—</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: If they were required to do that in the area that they were through, they would go through that training—induction and fire training.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I would have thought all employees would be required to do that. If you can take that on notice, I would be interested to know the percentage of those that you train as opposed to what the labour hire train.</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: I will take that on notice.</p>		
14	Corporate: ICCEID	Roberts	Review of the renewable energy target	<p>Senator ROBERTS: What is the basis of the renewables target? On what advice has that target been set?</p> <p>Ms Evans: There was an extensive review of the renewable energy target done in 2014, and the target was set through bipartisan agreement at 33,000 gigawatt hours. There was a range of modelling and other work done, and that report is in the public domain. We can arrange for a copy to be sent to you if you would like.</p>	Page 15 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000372
15	Corporate: ICCEID	Roberts	Cost-benefit analysis	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Are we able to get copies of cost-benefit analysis from the department?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes, but what is the specific—</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: In regard to the formulation of the 23 per cent target.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I would have to go back to the Warburton Review. That went through the pros and cons.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: And costed?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I cannot recall. I would have to take that on notice. But we can come back to what RIS process was done for that.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I would like to know the</p>	Page 17 and 18 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000374

				<p>economic cost benefit in particular, not just the triple bottom line but especially the economic cost benefit analysis.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Okay, we will take that on notice and we will come back later.</p>		
16	Corporate: CSD	Urquhart	Environment budget	<p>Senator URQUHART: Does the government know what its environment budget is?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Do you want to know what we spend as a government—as the Commonwealth collectively across environment? Sure.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: As a total. I guess what are the examples other than climate change?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Including other stakeholders or just what the Commonwealth spends?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What is the government's budget on the environment and what are examples other than climate change? What are the sorts of things that you would budget into the budget?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: You heard some of them this morning—Landcare programs, water recovery and restoration programs and the Great Barrier Reef. But, if you want an aggregate, I am sure that the department can take that on notice and aggregate the different agencies into some sort of sum. To be honest, I am not sure that will tell you terribly much, because there is a range of different priority areas across which that spending occurs, some of which overlap with one another but also many of which then overlap with efforts of other jurisdictions and other stakeholders too.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Dr de Brouwer, can you answer that question about the environment budget?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I think that, frankly, as the minister said, if you are looking for the broad impact, both the direct and the indirect impact, the</p>	Page 20 and 21 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000377

				<p>very rough approximation is to sum up the spending across different activities in the department and in portfolio agencies. But I can give some examples of that. The Emissions Reduction Fund is for emissions reduction, so it has a climate change mitigation benefit. But almost all of those programs have economic or social co-benefits. Three-quarters of the funding goes to farmers and that helps farm productivity. The savannah burning programs are an important element of economic and social benefit to Indigenous communities. So there is a range, even if it is—it is very hard to find a clear delineation between what is narrowly environmental in terms of natural resources and what is the broader environment benefit. I do not have a number around summing up the different activities, but we can do that. We will take that one on notice. That is a very rough approximation.</p>		
17	Corporate: PAAI	Bilyk	Vacancies	<p>Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.</p>	Written	SQ17-000487
18	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Ministerial functions	<p>Ministerial functions In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 March 2017, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials, ministerial staff and if members of the Minister’s immediate family attended – number of members (names not required); • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); 	Written	SQ17-000488

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 		
19	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Departmental functions	<p>Departmental functions In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies in the portfolio since 1 March 2017, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	SQ17-000489
20	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Laptops issued	How many laptops are currently on issue to staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio? Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?	Written	SQ17-000490
21	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Laptops purchased	How many new laptops were purchased by the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016? What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing laptops for staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?	Written	SQ17-000491
22	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Laptops replaced	How many laptops did the Department and agencies in the portfolio have to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?	Written	SQ17-000492
23	Corporate:	Bilyk	Laptops lost or	How many laptops were reported lost or stolen in	Written	SQ17-000493

	CSD		stolen	calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?		
24	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 March 2017? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	SQ17-000494
25	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises, or the premises of any agencies in the portfolio, been upgraded since 1 March 2017, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written	SQ17-000495
26	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Credit cards	How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff in the Department and agencies within the portfolio? If possible, please provide a break-down of this information by APS/ SES level. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2016 and what was it for? How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016? How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016? What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in	Written	SQ17-000496

				<p>calendar year 2016 and what was the card holder's APS/ SES level?</p> <p>How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2016 and what was the cost of their replacement?</p> <p>How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2016? What was the total value of those purchases? How many purchases were asked to be repaid on that basis in calendar year 2016 and what was the total value thereof? Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2016, and what was the cardholder's APS/ SES level? What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>Are any credit cards currently on issue in the Department or agencies within the portfolio connected to rewards schemes? Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p>		
27	Corporate: CSD	Bilyk	Credit card policy	Can a copy of the Department's staff credit card policy please be provided?	Written	SQ17-000523
28	Corporate: PAAI	Farrell	Market research	<p>For the 2016-17 financial year, what was the total amount spent by the Department on market research (either as a whole contract or as part of a contract)? For each contract for market research in 2016/2017, can you please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subject of the market research; • The supplier; • Whether the supplier has been engaged previously 	Written	SQ17-000579

				<p>and if so, for which contracts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total value of the contract; • The term of the contract (time); • The date that the decision was taken to seek market research on the topic; • The date the contract was opened to tender or selection process; • The date the supplier was engaged; • Whether the contract was subject to a tender process, including whether there was a full, partial or closed tender process; • Does the supplier exist on a pre-approved supplier list, if so, when were they added to that list; • Whether the Minister, or the Minister's Office, requested that the research be conducted; • Whether the Minister approved the decision to conduct market research; • Whether the Minister approved the contract with the supplier; • Whether the Minister or the Minister's office was consulted on questions asked; • Whether the Minister or the Minister's office received a copy of the market research; • If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, was the Minister or their office consulted before the decision was taken to conduct research, if so – in what form did that consultation take (written, verbal other); • If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, did Minister or their office make any amendments or changes to the Department's proposal for market research to be conducted, if so, what changes and to what aspects were they made; • At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other departments or 		
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				<p>agencies consulted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other Ministers, or the Prime Minister consulted? • At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the expected cost change, if so how? • At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the scope, questions or supplier of the research change? • Have any topics or questions of market research been conducted and subsequently conducted again by the same or different supplier? 		
29	Corporate: PAAI	Urquhart	Sustainable development goals – ACIUCN Workshop	Can the Department please provide the agenda and in due course outcomes of the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) September 2017 Workshop on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals? Can the Department also provide a copy of any communication to ACIUCN Members on the purpose of the Workshop.	Written	SQ17-000609
30	Corporate: PAAI	Urquhart	Australian domestic SDGs	Can the Department provide a list of all Australian domestic SDG related forums involving the Commonwealth Government and lists of those agencies and individuals that participated in the forums.	Written	SQ17-000610
31	Corporate: PAAI	Urquhart	Commonwealth responsibility for SDG implementation	Can the Department advise on which Commonwealth Department has overarching responsibility for SDG implementation?; what is the policy framework within the Commonwealth and with the States for implanting the SDGs?; what are the priority SDGs for the Department and the whole of the Government?; and, what is the reporting framework and process for SDG implementation both to the Australian community	Written	SQ17-000611

				and Parliament and to the relevant international forums?		
32	Corporate: Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Reporting	Can the Department provide information as requested by Senator Moore on the totality of the SOE program outside of the specific activity of preparing the 5 yearly SOE report e.g. on the various outreach, education and philanthropic activities related to SOE work referred to in the Estimate's hearings.	Written	SQ17-000613
33	Corporate: Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Reporting – Findings	Will the Department be preparing a formal response to all of the SOE Report's findings? If not, why not?	Written	SQ17-000614
34	Corporate: PAAI	Urquhart	Environment Budget – Whole of Government	As promised in the Environment Estimates hearing can the Department prepare an 'Environment Budget ' of total environment related spending of the Government for 2016-17, 2017-18 and the out years. Can the Department advise if it could provide such a whole of Government environment budget in future years as was done by previous Governments such as when Malcolm Turnbull was environment Minister (2007 – 08 Budget).	Written	SQ17-000617
35	Corporate: PAAI	Urquhart	Environment Funding	The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) estimates that by 2019 Federal Environment Funding will have declined by 38 % on 2013 levels and that national biodiversity funding has fallen to its lowest level in more than a decade with government expenditure being just 5 cents in every dollar on conservation. Does the Department agree with these figures?, if not why not? , and what is the Department's estimate of environment spending changes from	Written	SQ17-000619

				2013 to 2019?		
36	Corporate: Legal	Roberts	Cost Benefit Analyses	Have published cost-benefit-analyses (CBAs) accompanied climate related legislation and regulations?	Written	SQ17-000627
37	Corporate: PAAI	Roberts	Cost Benefit Analyses	Have CBAs taken into account free markets, private property rights & common law (eg tort) rather than just central planning, government regulation & tragedy of the commons – ie freedom v control?	Written	SQ17-000628
38	Corporate: PAAI	Roberts	Governance	Is the burden-of-proof for environment & energy policies on the Department, others within the Government or others outside? In other words, who initiates policies? Is it that the usual case that the Minister just directs the Department to document his/her policies?	Written	SQ17-000631
39	Corporate: PAAI	Roberts	Policy Direction	Is the standard-of-proof, for at least major policies, beyond-a-reasonable-doubt (eg high), on-the-balance-of-probabilities (eg medium) or based on the precautionary principle (eg low, very low or none)? In other words, how are policy needs determined? Is it that the usual case that the Minister just directs the Department to document his/her policies with or without evidence?	Written	SQ17-000632
40	Corporate: PAAI	Roberts	Net Benefits	Does proof, for at least major policies, include rigorous & independent cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) which best captures the triple-bottom-line (of economic, social & environmental considerations)? In other words, are policies shown to be of net benefit to Australia over time? Is it that the case that CBA is rarely undertaken?	Written	SQ17-000633
41	Corporate:	Roberts	Freedom Vs Control	Are you aware that both history and theory show	Written	SQ17-000634

	Legal			that the environment is far more efficiently & effectively, and thus more sustainably, regulated based on free markets and common law (eg tort) than government regulation – ie freedom v control? Are you aware that both history and theory show that natural resources & environmental management systems based on voluntary & competitive private-property-rights are far more efficient & effective, and thus sustainable, than those based on involuntary & monopolistic command-and-control ones – ie freedom v control?		
42	Corporate: PAAI	Roberts	Cost Benefit Analyses – Major Policies	Does proof, for at least major policies, include rigorous & independent cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) which best captures the triple-bottom-line?	Written	SQ17-000630
43	1.1: BCD	Reynolds	World’s biggest predator proof fenced area – feral cats	Mr Andrews: In addition to Kangaroo Island, at Newhaven sanctuary run by Australian Wildlife Conservancy, which already has dozens of species and 27 mammals, we will be building the world's biggest predator proof fenced area. So the strategy is not only establishing the largest ever island eradication of feral cats but also the largest ever fenced area in the world to protect species from feral cats. I can table this document. It has my scribbles on it, but my team will give me a fresh copy. CHAIR: I am happy for you to table a fresh copy when one is available. Thank you.	Page 61 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000380
44	1.1: BCD	Rice	Government spending on threatened species	Senator RICE: Where can I find a table that articulates what money the government is spending on threatened species? Mr Andrews: I could give that to you right now. I have only got one copy, but I am very happy to table it. I usually do, or I get asked for it at	Page 62 and 63 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000381

				<p>estimates.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Knudson: what I would suggest is that if the staff have that when we show up at 1.4, we would be absolutely happy to provide it. Otherwise we can certainly take that on notice and give you those two breakouts for Mr Andrews's office and the area that deals with the recovery plans.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you.</p>		
45	1.1: BCD	Whish-Wilson	Article published in the <i>Conversation</i>	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Sure. I note the terms of reference of the Threatened Species Commissioner. One of your roles, Mr Andrews, is to lead efforts to report on outcomes of conservation activities for prior threatened species, including the effectiveness of specific investments and achievements. So I understand why you would respond. That is perfectly understandable from my point of view. One of your other roles is to work collaboratively with scientists; that is next. I think in this case those two things are contradictory. We have been contacted by the scientists, who felt very intimidated by this particular exchange. Finally, perhaps you could—you can take it on notice—let the committee know what was erroneous about that article. I understand you still have not communicated that.</p> <p>Mr Andrews: I would be delighted to say what is erroneous about it. It made an assertion—I cannot remember the exact number—that only 20 or 17 plants were being saved. That is the first. They actually said—and I accepted—that the projects were good projects.</p> <p>CHAIR: So, Mr Andrews, you did have the offer to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Andrews: Sorry.</p> <p>CHAIR: You have already corrected yourself</p>	Page 65 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000383

				once, if not twice, in this answer. If you are not quite sure of all the facts, it might be better to be accurate and take it on notice so that we do not have to go back and clarify it later.		
46	1.1: BCD	Chisholm	Funding for Indigenous protected areas	<p>Ms Campbell: The government has not announced the ongoing figure for Indigenous protected areas, so that is the case at the moment. We cannot compare the annual figures from now to the future, but we would be able to do that, I imagine, once government has made the announcements on funding for that program.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Minister, do you think that that money towards annual funding for Indigenous protected areas will increase or decrease over the forwards?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: It is not for me to think about matters that will be determined either in the budget context or portfolio context for Mr Frydenberg, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	Page 67 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000384
47	1.1: BCD	Chisholm	Funding of Indigenous protected areas	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Is it correct that there are currently 75 Indigenous protected areas operating across Australia at the moment?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I will have to get the numbers. That number sounds about right. I think there are 75. We are currently providing funding for the support and declaration of management of 70 of those properties.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: And 18 in planning or development stages as part of the program that is funded through to June 2018?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I do not have the breakdown of those figures, so I would have to take on notice the breakdown of which are in declaration and which are still in the planning phases.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I am interested in the</p>	Page 67 and 68 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000386

				<p>funding for those that are in planning as well and the status of them.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: So of the contracts that are in the planning stages, there is money provided from the Commonwealth through the National Landcare Program for the consultation phase of the IPA. In accordance with the program guidelines that the contracts were established under, when an IPA reaches its declaration stage and is formally declared, there is an expectation that there will be increased funding, and that is a decision of the minister. But there have been a number of IPAs in the recent few years that have proceeded to declaration. Under the guidelines, there is an increase in funding to allow for the increased management responsibility of that area.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Minister, is that something you are confident the government will fund as the potentially 18 new ones are agreed to—ongoing funding for those as part of the system?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Well, I am sure appropriate consideration will be given to that. I am happy to take that on notice in terms of any additional information that Mr Frydenberg can provide.</p>		
48	1.1: BCD	Reynolds	Wild dog program in Western Australia	<p>CHAIR: I have one final question for Mr Andrews. It relates to something that we have talked about before, and that is the terrible situation with feral dogs in Western Australia and the havoc that they are playing on many farms and pastoral stations. Can you give us an update on the program there? I have had feedback that the 1080 baits are not working. In fact, the goannas are eating them and the dogs are not. Can you perhaps update us, or take it on notice, because I would like quite a comprehensive overview of what is happening with the wild dog program in Western Australia.</p>	Page 69 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000389

				<p>Mr Andrews: Actually, I will take it on notice and consult my colleagues in the agriculture department because they provide a large amount of funding to tackle feral dogs. Some of the baits that we have been distributing—the Eradicat baits—are also controlling feral dogs to some extent. With the goannas, one thing we do not have to worry about is the goannas actually suffering because, particularly in Western Australia, they are immune to 1080. It is a biodegradable substance found in the leaves of some of the gastrolobium plants there. But obviously that does not mean it is not getting a result for the dogs. So I will take it on notice for you.</p>		
49	1.1 WHM	Chisholm	<p>Foreign Minister Trip to The GBR – Briefing</p>	<p>Senator CHISHOLM:The briefing notes that were provided to her—would you be able to provide them to us so that we could see what was provided before she made such comments?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I cannot give you briefing that was provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the foreign minister. You will need to take that up in their estimates committee hearing, I would suggest.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But you provided the briefing notes, didn't you?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We provided comments on briefing that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prepared for the foreign minister. That would be a normal process of interchange between departments. The only direct contribution or engagement with the minister was a face-to-face discussion.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Would the contributions that the department made to those briefings be able to be made available to us?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I will take that on notice, Senator.</p>	Page 35 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000460

50	1.1: WHM	Rice	Spending on forestry dependent species	<p>Senator RICE: In terms of the quantum of funding that has gone towards those actions, how does that compare in the forward estimates with previous years?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I am sorry, this really is a matter for outcome 1.1. That is where the spending programs are dealt with.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Sorry, Senator. I will get you an update.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Particularly given that I was told that recovery plans was in 1.4.</p> <p>CHAIR: If there is any way that we can, without getting officials back, answer Senator Rice's question, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That is what I was trying to lay out for the senator. To get to the essence, now that I understand where she is trying to go, it is to understand the amount of spending on forestry dependent species and articulate what that spending profile looks like. Sorry, Mr Oxley; I interrupted because I talked to the senator previously about waiting for this outcome. I had understood differently where she wanted to focus. If providing that sort of analysis would be helpful, that is where we will focus our effort.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes. Thank you.</p>	Page 83 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000388
51	1.1: BCD	Bilyk	Policy Commitments	<p>Has funding contracts for these projects been signed between the Commonwealth and the recipients? If yes, can a copy of the agreement please be provided?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have recipients received promised federal funding in full? • Have the projects commenced? • Have the projects been completed? If no, what is the expected completion date? 	Written	SQ17-000497

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can an itemised list of additional costs to the commonwealth related to these projects in excess of the dollar figure previously announced by the Government please be provided? <p>Commitment - Bushfire risk management fire trails worth \$254,301. Bowens Creek Fire Trail worth \$100,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Harbour Heritage Park Projects worth \$1,500,000. <p>Upgrade the Marine Discovery Centre, via improving your Local parks & Environment Program, worth \$100,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage conservation projects at Woolmers Estate, Port Arthur and the Coal Mines Historic Site worth \$300,000. • Derwent River Waterfront Revitalisation Project - New Norfolk worth \$600,000. • Final stage of the Three Capes Walk worth \$3,800,000. • Carlton River Bridge Upgrade worth \$1,200,000. • Eel aquaculture facility in Bagdad from the Tasmanian Jobs and Investment Fund worth \$400,000. • Meander Valley Catchment Landcare Group to eradicate feral cats and increase community efforts to protect the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the Eastern Quoll. • Environmental modelling for the construction of marine infrastructure at Rosevears Waterfront Tavern via the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund worth \$150,000. <p>Tasmanian Berries at Exton expansion - from Tasmanian Jobs & Investment Fund worth \$430,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Tier Mountain Bike Trails, stage 2 worth \$1,600,000. 		
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cradle Mountain business care and economic impact statement worth \$1,000,000. • Geeves Effect wilderness proposal at Lake Geeves worth \$70,000. • Ridge Walk, connecting Upwey/Tecoma to Montrose via Ferny Creek, Sassafras, Olinda, Mount Dandenong, and Kalorama worth \$2,500,000. • Gilbert’s Potoroo Action Group for the Gilbert’s Potoroo worth \$250,000. • Martu Traditional Owners for the Mala, Golden Bandicoot worth \$250,000. • Cassowary Recovery Team for the Cassowary worth \$150,000. • Mungarru Lodge Sanctuary for the Mahogany Glider worth \$50,000. • Friends of Ormeau Bottle Tree for the Ormeau Bottle Tree worth \$20,000. • Hunter Bird Observers Club for the Eastern Curlew worth \$20,000. • Meander Valley Catchment Landcare Group for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Eastern Quoll worth \$90,000. • Friends of Helmeted Honeyeater for the Helmeted Honeyeater worth \$50,000. • Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park for the Plains Wanderer worth \$20,000. 		
52	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program – Funding decrease	Is it correct that the funding for the National Landcare Programme (NLP) announced in 2017-18 Budget Paper No. 2 (\$1.0 billion) and in the 2016-17 MYEFO (\$60 m of the \$100 million from the Green Army program to the NLP to be allocated in the years 2018-19 and 2019-20) for the five year period from 2018-19 through 2022-23, i.e. a total of \$1.06 billion over 7 years, represents an approximate 15% decrease in average annual	Written	SQ17-000584

				funding compared to the average annual funding of \$1.0 billion for the NLP over the four years from 2014-15 through 2017-18 that was announced in 2014-15 Budget Paper No. 2?		
53	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Program – 7 Year Program	When will decisions on the range of proportions of NLP funding between the portfolios and the priorities under that 7 year program be made?	Written	SQ17-000589
54	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas	In regard to IPAs , leaving aside the \$15 m announcement for new IPAS when will there be announcements on the funding allocation over the next 5 years for existing or IPAs under consultation?	Written	SQ17-000595
55	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas Current Funding	Of the 75 operational IPAs and the 18 currently under development can the Department confirm, a. Do each of these IPAS currently have dedicated IPA funding from the IPA program? b. If there are IPAs that do not currently have dedicated funding can the Department detail which these are? c. Can the Department detail whether those IPAs that do currently have dedicated IPA funding under the IPA program are funded up until June 2018? d. If there are IPAS that currently do not have funding up to June 2018 can the Department detail when those IPAs funding does run to?	Written	SQ17-000597
56	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas Renewal of Funding	Could the Department confirm that there is an intention to renew funding for IPAs from June 2018 to June 2023 in line with funding extensions for the National Landcare Program? a. Could the minister confirm whether IPA funding will be extended over the same time horizon as per recent media commentary.	Written	SQ17-000601

				b. Could the Minister confirm whether there is a breakdown of annual funding under the IPA program for the years from June 2018 to June 2023 (not including the one off \$15m addition through the backpacker tax deal-simply the dedicated IPA annual funding stream for those five years.)		
57	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas Criteria	Is there a process by which the establishment of new IPAs is considered against criteria?	Written	SQ17-000602
58	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas 5 Year Program	Can the Department provide a funding figure for the Indigenous Ranger Program for the next 5 years from 2018-19 - that is, covering existing funding and new funding for Ranger capacity building announced by Minister Scullion on 17 May 2017?	Written	SQ17-000603
59	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas – Indigenous Ranger Work	Can the Department confirm whether any Indigenous Ranger work, including specifically Indigenous Ranger wage or coordinator funding, is being currently funded from the National Landcare Program Biodiversity Fund?	Written	SQ17-000604
60	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Indigenous Protected Areas – End of Funding	If Ranger programs including coordinator funding is currently being sourced by the National Landcare Program biodiversity fund can the Department confirm whether any of these groups have funding which currently terminates this financial year, and if so what are plans to sustain that work beyond the end of the financial year?	Written	SQ17-000605
61	1.1:BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System	Can the Department advise on funding allocation over the next 5 years for the establishment of new non IPA, NRS reserves?	Written	SQ17-000606
62	1.1:BCD	Urquhart	Support your Local Parks and	Was the department aware of environment funds being spent on motors in the past?	Written	SQ17-000607

			Environment Program	Has there been research into the age and pollution produced by current motors used by surf life savers? Is this a widespread problem? When did the department first become aware of the problem?		
63	1.1: BCD	Rice	20 Million Trees program	I understand that this program has committed funding to 164 projects to plant more than 13.4 million trees (as at 25 July 2016). Can you advise on how many of those trees have been planted, so far?	Written	SQ17-000608
64	1.1: BCD	Rice	20 Million Trees program	Can you provide a breakdown of the number of trees planted by landscape type (e.g. urban, rural, waterways, wetlands)?	Written	SQ17-000612
65	1.1: BCD	Rice	20 Million Trees program	Is data collected on tree health and survival rates, following plantings? a. If so, can that data be made available? b. If not, how can grant recipients be supported to monitor and encourage meaningful tree data collection?	Written	SQ17-000615
66	1.1: BCD	Rice	20 Million Trees program	How is data collected and reported on the carbon reduction outcomes of plantings? And how does this measurement directly contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions?	Written	SQ17-000616
67	1.1: BCD	Rice	20 Million Trees program	How is data collected and reported on the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species?	Written	SQ17-000618
68	1.1: BCD	Kakoschke-	Green Army	How many jobs have been lost with the termination	Written	SQ17-000620

		Moore	Program and National Landcare Program	of the Green Army Program? How many new jobs will be provided through the National Landcare Program measure? How many of the people who will be completing the same jobs as the Green Army be unpaid volunteers? How many of these jobs will be set aside for indigenous people?		
69	1.1: BCD	Kakoschke-Moore	Green Army Program and National Landcare Program in South Australia	How many people were employed through the Green Army program in South Australia? How many jobs will the National Landcare Program create in South Australia in total? Does this result in an increase, or decrease in jobs? How many jobs has the National Landcare Program created in South Australia to date?	Written	SQ17-000621
70	1.1: BCD	Kakoschke-Moore	Indigenous Protected Areas	What is the total amount of funding that has been identified for the Indigenous Protected Areas program in the forward estimates? What is the funding per annum? Of that total funding, how much is new money? Does funding for this program continue beyond the forward estimates? When will the negotiation process begin for contracts beyond June 2018?	Written	SQ17-000622
71	1.1: WHM	Urquhart	World Heritage Committee meeting	In terms of the draft decision on the GBR from UNESCO to the World Heritage Committee's 41st meeting in Krakow (2- 12 July) what will be the thrust of the Department's advice to the Government for the 41st meeting on UNESCO's recommendation that Australia submit a report by 1 December 2019 on " the state of conservation of the property, demonstrating effective and sustained protection of the property's Outstanding Universal	Written	SQ17-000623

				Value”?		
72	1.1: WHM	Urquhart	UNESCO Findings	<p>What is the Department’s view on the above UNESCO report findings that:</p> <p>a. “progress towards achieving water quality targets has been slow, and the most immediate water quality targets set out in the 2050 LTSP are not expected to be achieved within the foreseen timeframe”</p> <p>b. “that the implementation of the Plan will need to accelerate to ensure that the intermediate and long-term targets of 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (LTSP) are being met, in particular regarding water quality.. [and]...that important legislation regulating land clearing has not been passed yet, and that increased efforts are needed to ensure that all important legislation necessary to deliver the 2050 LTSP outcomes is put in place.”</p> <p>c. “Climate change remains the most significant overall threat to the future of the property. It is recommended that the Committee express its serious concern at the coral bleaching and mortality that occurred in 2016 and at the second event underway in early 2017. While the long-term effects of these events cannot be fully evaluated yet, their scale serves to underline the severity of the threat to the property from climate change. At the site level, there is a need to consider how these mass bleaching events influence the effectiveness of the 2050 LTSP in its current form, notably in relation to the most urgently needed measures and improvements that contribute to the property’s resilience.”</p>	Written	SQ17-000624
73	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Briefing to DFAT Minister	Can the Department provide a copy of its advice to the Department of Foreign Affairs brief to Minister Bishop in regard to her trip to the Reef with foreign	Written	SQ17-000625

				Ambassadors?		
74	1.1: BCD	Urquhart	Revised Reef 2050 Plan	In terms of various recent expert investigations including the Government's own Independent Expert Panel, chaired by Ian Chubb will the Department be giving consideration to including climate change mitigation and adaptations actions in a revised Reef 2050 Plan?	Written	SQ17-000626
75	1.2: WHM	Reynolds	CSIRO shark study	<p>CHAIR: To clarify, I understand from the minister's column that CSIRO is currently doing a study into shark populations on the east and the west coasts. Are you able to provide a little more information on that study and how that might feed into this?</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I have asked this question.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Mr Richardson indicated earlier that that is something that is being run out of the National Environmental Science Program in outcome 1.2. We can certainly take that on notice.</p>	Page 74 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000394
76	1.4: WHM	Whish-Wilson	White shark populations	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: So unless we get something versus 2014, we do not know whether the population levels are increasing per se. We know there is a recovery plan in place because, going back over decades, there were concerns about numbers of great white sharks. That is part of an international treaty on protection. Mr Frydenberg, our environment minister, said not long ago, on 20 April 2017 that 'Blind Freddy' could see that there were more 'great white sharks in the water and people's lives would be put in danger if we don't take action'. Where would the minister have got that idea that blind Freddy could see that white shark populations were going through the roof?</p> <p>CHAIR: I think you just have to talk to any cray</p>	Page 72 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000391

				<p>fishermen, fishermen or anyone else who is off the coast of Western Australia and they will tell you the same. That is why this survey is so important.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you, Senator Reynolds. I would prefer to hear from the department whether they believe it is—</p> <p>CHAIR: My apologies, Senator Whish-Wilson.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: That is okay. Actually, Senator Reynolds makes a good point. Perhaps, Senator Birmingham, I could ask you. Is it anecdotal evidence from cray fishermen off the coast of Western Australia that the minister is using to make that comment?</p> <p>CHAIR: They are in the water all day every day.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: It sounds very scientific to me. I was just interested if that might be what is informing the federal environment minister.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Senator Whish-Wilson, I am happy to seek some information from Mr Frydenberg's office as to the evidence base used by the minister.</p>		
77	1.4: WHM	Whish-Wilson	White sharks	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I understand that, Mr Richardson. I am interested in whether exceptional circumstances would essentially, for want of a better term, be a loophole for killing white sharks. Could you justify that?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I do not think it would be characterised as a loophole. Certainly for white sharks globally, there are a number of signatory countries where there is a level of take to protect beachgoers, including in Australia.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you give us more information, perhaps on notice, as to examples overseas and whether there is any quantification of what that might be.</p>	Page 75 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000396

				Mr Richardson: Sure.		
78	1.4: WHM	Whish-Wilson	Quantum of funding for shark research	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I want to ask for a point of clarification on Senator Lines’s questions. Can you give us, perhaps on notice, what the quantum of funding has been overall for research specifically around shark mitigation and the tagging programs?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We certainly can attempt to.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could. I am trying to get an idea of how much we have invested in the public good.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I want to clarify the question. Are we talking about oceanic sharks?</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Specifically the white sharks. I know you tag lots of other sharks, but white sharks and bull sharks.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: Okay.</p>	Page 76 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000397
79	1.4: WHM	Urquhart	Cape York	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thanks. Can you give us an update on Cape York and, within that, the consultation with the Indigenous people?</p> <p>Mr Johnston: That is a process that is being run by Queensland.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So the Queensland state?</p> <p>Mr Johnston: The Queensland state; that is right.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So there is no involvement from the Commonwealth on that?</p> <p>Mr Johnston: No. We are not involved in the consultations. We were having some discussions early on with Queensland about the scoping of their project, but I do not think we have been having those for the last couple of months. I can take that on notice and confirm. Senator URQUHART: That would be great.</p>	Page 79 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000398
80	1.4: WHM	Rice	Hooded plover –	Mr Richardson: Thanks, Senator. The hooded	Page 80	SQ17-000400

			conservation advice	<p>plover is listed, as you said, as vulnerable, I believe. That is from memory, so I might have to correct myself later.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It may be in Victoria but in other states—I am not sure—my understanding is that it is endangered. It may be endangered in Victoria and vulnerable across the country.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: That is probably right. I have got down here that part of the eastern population or the eastern extent of the bird is listed. I have also got that there is no recovery plan for this species and that there is not one required. What it does have is a relatively recent, dating back to 2014, conservation advice, which will set out essentially what is threatening the bird and why it is eligible for listing as vulnerable, I believe, and then what can be done about it, if anything. I do not have with me a copy of that conservation advice, though, so I am not going to talk in much more detail than that. But there is not a recovery plan required for this species.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Right. If you can table that conservation advice on notice, that would be—</p> <p>Mr Richardson: That is available online. I am happy to provide it to the committee.</p>	Monday 22 May	
81	1.4: WHM	Rice	Recovery plans	<p>Senator RICE: How many recovery plans are there?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I can give you a rough estimate. I do not know if you need an exact number. It is roughly about 400. If you need an accurate number, I can take it on notice. That is roughly.</p>	Page 81 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000401
82	1.4: WHM	Rice	Recovery plans	<p>Senator RICE: So are there instances where the TSSC has recommended a recovery plan and no action has yet been taken to begin the development of it or to fast-track the development of it? I know that there are many recovery plans that have taken</p>	Page 82 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000403

				<p>an awful long time in their development.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I could not point to examples. I would have to take it on notice to say whether the committee since 2007 has recommended a recovery plan, the minister has accepted that and we have not yet commenced it. I think it would be a small minority, if there are those out there. For the bulk of those plans from 2007 onwards, again, we have been consulting and engaging with the states and territories to commence development. We have talked about some of those in past estimates and about some difficulties with that. There are some that we have picked up and finished ourselves. Essentially they end up as plans made by the Commonwealth rather than state plans adopted by the Commonwealth. But that is time consuming and resource intensive.</p>		
83	1.4: WHM	Rice	Recovery plan – forest dependent species	<p>Senator RICE: I could not find information on the listed species within forests. You did not seem to identify which are forest dependent species, as I said, or species from different environments.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: We tend not to break them up by those categories. I could have a go on notice of giving you a list of species for which a recovery plan is required that are forest dwelling species.</p> <p>Senator RICE: That would be very useful, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I will take that on notice.</p>	Page 82 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000404
84	1.4: WHM	Rice	Recovery plans	<p>Senator RICE: So is there any analysis of the resources that are being put in over time into the implementation of recovery plans?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Mr Andrews, the Threatened Species Commissioner, I think has on a reasonably regular basis provided updates to the Senate and through public communications about the extent of</p>	Page 82 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000406

				<p>expenditure which is being made in the service of threatened species recovery objectives. I point back to that information and outcome 1.1.</p> <p>Senator RICE: What I am getting at is that you have a suite of recovery plans, all of which have a suite of actions in them. I want to know the level of resources that are being put towards the implementation of those suite of actions over time.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: And I am saying to you that the best source of information for that is Mr Andrews, who has done some of that analysis. It is in program 1.1.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But does he analyse it according to how much money is actually being spent on recovery plans overall, or is it just the range of different actions that are being undertaken?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We will need to take that on notice. I cannot give you that information now.</p>		
85	1.4: WHM	Rice	Regional forestry agreements	<p>Senator RICE: Okay. In terms of the information that has been taken on notice for me, and the forest dwelling species which are listed which have got recovery plans, in forests that are subject to logging, my understanding is that the main mechanisms to be protecting those species are implemented through the regional forest agreements. That is correct, is it not?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That is correct. But in each of those regional forestry agreements, the state that is the manager of those will have their own management plans and actions that they will put in place to ensure that the RFA has that appropriate balance between ecological outcomes and forestry.</p> <p>Senator RICE: As well as the current status, what was the status of those forest dwelling species when the regional forest agreements were first brought into being 20 years ago?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I am not sure how we would answer</p>	Page 87 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000407

				<p>that because the EPBC Act would not have existed at that point, if I am correct in terms of the map.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Threatened species listing legislation predates the EPBC Act. All those listed species were grandfathered into the EPBC Act. So hopefully we can readily mine the data holdings we have to produce that information and come back to you on notice.</p>		
86	1.4: ESD	Rhiannon	Prosecutions	<p>Senator RHIANNON: How many prosecutions is the department pursuing at the present time?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: Our investigations section is in outcome 1.5. I am aware of investigations into wildlife, but I would have to take on notice and get the investigations section to advise you about how many investigations are underway.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: if you could take that on notice please.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I want to go back to the issue of platypuses and platypus diplomacy. When we discussed—</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Senator, Mr Cahill is here and can probably answer that question that we had to take on notice earlier on.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: You may be aware that on 3 March an individual was arrested by the Australian Federal Police and charged with 40 offences for alleged involvement in an illegal international wildlife smuggling network. So we do put a concerted effort in this space. This included 37 counts contrary to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and three offences contrary to the Biosecurity Act. We have an ongoing investigation into a series of networks smuggling wildlife both into and out of Australia. This is a joint agency operation with the Australian Federal Police, who coordinate this investigation with us, and we are</p>	Page 5 and 6 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000411

				<p>supported by a range of other Commonwealth agencies, including the Australian Border Force. We are very conscious that illegal trade in Australia's wildlife is unacceptable and very conscious of what that can mean to the welfare of Australia's unique wildlife. At the moment that investigation is ongoing, so it is probably inappropriate for me to comment any further.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: The question was about how many prosecutions the department has pursued in the past year. You have mentioned one. Are there others?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: This is the primary one. I am not aware of any actual prosecutions in the last two years. But I will take it on notice and go back through our records.</p>		
87	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Conditions for export of platypus	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Perhaps you can take this question on notice. You mentioned the conditions that you are helping Taronga Zoo with with regard to how the platypus will be sent overseas. Can you take on notice what those conditions are, even if it is just the areas in which you are giving them advice on and helping them work it out? Could you provide more information?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: They are going to prepare a draft of those conditions. They are doing the research and they will submit those conditions to us as a draft, and we will assess them at that time. I do not have any more information than that.</p>	Page 6 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000412
88	1.4: WHM	Ludlam	Species Referred for Assessment under the Threatened Species Committee	<p>Senator LUDLAM: What I did in my correspondence, which I referred to at the outset, was propose that the species of subterranean fauna that the state EPA found were subject to risk of extinction be referred to the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for assessment under section</p>	Page 105 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000414

				<p>178 of your act before any decision is made. What can you tell us about that suggestion? The minister came back and said you had recommended against it. I do not have the letter in front of me. Why would you do that—or are you being verbally?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The question of whether a species is referred for assessment under the threatened species committee is under outcome 1.4.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Do not do that to us. It is late; not as late as it would have been.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Unfortunately, the experts are not in the room to be able to answer that. Again, I am very happy to take that on notice and come back to you on the considerations around this issue.</p>		
89	1.4: WHM	Urquhart	Whaling	What are the Department's plans in regards to Japanese Whaling in the Southern Ocean and Pacific in the 2017-18 Summer season and what funding has been allocated to this task?	Written	SQ17-000592
90	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros – Location	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa a. Where will these rhinos be located in Australia?	Written	SQ17-000635
91	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros – Management Plan	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa What management plan (including anti-poaching and anti-dehorning measures), will be put in place?	Written	SQ17-000636
92	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros – Security	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa Given the high financial value of rhinoceros horns, what risk assessment has been conducted on the venture, including from the point when rhinos leave South Africa? i. Please provide a copy of that risk assessment.	Written	SQ17-000637
93	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros – Legal	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to	Written	SQ17-000638

			Status	Australia from South Africa What will be the legal status of these animals when they leave Australia, including who will have ownership of these animals at each stage of the process?		
94	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros – Dehorning	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa Is there a plan to dehorn the animals? i. If not, does this mean dehorning the animals is unequivocally ruled out from the outset? If dehorning is a possibility, what is the disposal plan for the horn? i. Will removed horns be destroyed or stockpiled? ii. If stockpiled, to what end and what security measures (costed) will be put in place to prevent them being stolen?	Written	SQ17-000639
95	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Rhinoceros –CITES	With regard to the 80 rhinos to be imported to Australia from South Africa How will the Australian CITES Scientific Authority establish whether the transfer will satisfy the requirements of Res Conf 11.20, particularly with respect to the receiving facilities being ‘appropriate and acceptable’, and that the trade would promote in situ conservation?	Written	SQ17-000640
96	1.4: WHM	Rhiannon	Wildlife Trade Reinforcement	In March 2015 the Australian National Audit Office undertook an audit into the Department of Environment’s management and compliance arrangements for governing wildlife trade. The ANAO gave a series of recommendations which were agreed to by the Department. What has the Environment Department done since the audit report to improve its compliance monitoring, IT systems and wildlife trade data? (Recommendations 1, 3 and 3)	Written	SQ17-000641

				What is the Environment Department doing to provide the public with more data on the extent of illegal trade in Australia? (Recommendation 4)		
97	1.5: ESD	Rice	Parks Victoria – Belfast Coastal Reserves	<p>Senator RICE: I want to clarify that you have already requested Parks Victoria?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: No. We have not. Not to my knowledge. But I will undertake to have an engagement with Parks Victoria to see what information is at hand and see if we can find a sensible way for us to be able to manage what that means for a species that we protect.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Would you be able to give me an idea of a timeline that that engagement could occur under?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: No. I will have to take that on notice. But I will give an undertaking to contact them this week.</p>	Page 91 Monday May 22	SQ17-000418
98	1.5: Science	Reynolds	Behaviour of Sharks	<p>Mr Knudson: There are six other studies. As I seem to recall, it is looking at different shark attack mitigation technologies and their effectiveness. That is looking at the behaviour of the sharks in terms of not their level of aggressiveness but how they respond to different technologies being deployed.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. Just on that, if there is any need to take this on notice and if there is any additional information—you have already got that from New South Wales, for example—I would be grateful. What has also been said to the inquiry in evidence is that the behaviour of the sharks is changing. It now varies. There is variance. So a great white is not just a great white. The different populations of great white are also exhibiting different behaviours. You obviously cannot answer that here, but you could take that on notice.</p>	Page 92 and 93 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000419

				<p>Mr Cahill: I will take that on notice, including the scope and depth of the New South Wales evaluation.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. I am grateful.</p>		
99	1.5: ESD	Urquhart	Turtle and marine plan – Abbot Point	<p>Senator URQUHART: Why hasn't the turtle plan and the marine plan been done? You said the plans have not been done but there was a variation.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: The vehicle for delivering the offset is now the Reef Trust. The Reef Trust has its own governance arrangements in terms of ensuring that the outcomes it is trying to produce are governed. They go through an expert committee. They will do consultation and a range of other things. Through that vehicle, they will produce the plans to ensure that the offsets are delivered. The requirement is that they are only to be put in place before a commencement of any mining. Our expectation is that there are superior outcomes from this approach not only because of the better targeting; there is an independent advisory panel or other arrangements to ensure that the quality of the offsets delivered by the Reef Trust are in a much better condition.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I understood that previously the minister was to approve the plans. Does this condition change mean that they will not? So does the trust then seek ministerial approval?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Any revision of a management plan or anything will be reviewed by the department and would not necessarily be informed to the minister or his or her delegate.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But not approval, as was previously the case. You just said 'informed'. I am just trying to clarify that.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I would have to take that on notice to be accurate.</p>	Page 94 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000420

100	1.5: ESD	Urquhart	Reef Trust – Abbot Point	<p>Senator URQUHART: The condition 37 states that construction must not commence until the marine offsets strategy has been approved by the minister in writing. The approved marine offsets strategy must be implemented. So has the minister approved this plan and the turtle plan?</p> <p>Ms Collins: No. That plan has not been prepared and it has not been approved by the minister. Because the program has now translated to the Reef Trust that is no longer necessary under this individual approval, but it is taken over by the requirements of the Reef Trust itself.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The question of whether the Reef Trust makes the decision and then the department advises the minister—am I clear on that?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 95 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000421
101	1.5: ESD	Urquhart	Amend section 487 of the EPBC Act	<p>Senator URQUHART: Minister, I asked whether the department, within the term of this parliament, is planning to work on or prepare legislation to amend section 487 of the EPBC Act in order to restrict the types of groups that would have standing to appeal decisions under the act.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will have to take that on notice and take it up with the minister.</p>	Page 95 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000422
102	1.5: ESD	Waters	Independent Expert Panel - Adani	<p>Senator WATERS: I want to go back to the Adani conditions issue. Thank you for your earlier clarification, but I am afraid I have a number of follow-up questions. I do not feel in any way persuaded that there has been an improvement, so I have some detailed questions that hopefully you can help me with. The previous requirement was a legally binding requirement because it was in the conditions of approval. My understanding is that the Reef Trust guidelines do not have such a status.</p>	Page 95 and 96 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000423

				<p>That is my first question to you: how is it an improvement? I think you said it was an absolute improvement, when they are actually not legally binding anymore.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: On the question of the specific level of binding, I will have to take that on notice because Ms Parry oversees the Reef Trust and would know all of the administrative specificities there. I just do not want to mislead you. That being said, I said it was an improvement because the investment decisions made by the Reef Trust—given their history of being involved in the reef and delivering projects for good environmental outcomes, and the fact that it has existed for a while—are informed directly by the Independent Expert Panel. We talked earlier in this session about their thoughts on 'where to' on the reef. The fact that there is that oversight body of experts that are providing advice on where best to make those investments, I would argue, is a far better opportunity than an individual company trying, with their best intent, to figure out what would be most effective for delivering outcomes for the reef. That is why I said that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: With respect, it is not the company that just tries to figure it out on their own. They put a proposal to the minister, and the minister has to tick it off. That will no longer occur because it is going through this different Reef Trust process. So my question is: could the independent expert body have been involved in that initial drafting of the marine offset strategy under the normal process? You are trying to say that it is somehow better because the independent mob can get involved this time around. What was stopping them getting involved the first time, anyway, and still having it be legally binding?</p>		
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				<p>Mr Knudson: Again, not knowing the specific terms of reference for the Independent Expert Panel, I do not know whether they could have or could not have. But that is easy for us to come back to you on.</p>		
103	1.5: ESD	Waters	<p>Governance arrangements around the Reef Trust - Adani</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes, but that is my very point. You can still use the Reef Trust mechanism but have the legally binding requirement in the permit. Why, in this case, has it been taken out of the permit and just given to the Reef Trust with much less scrutiny, accountability and structure around it? In all of those other instances, this has never happened, to my knowledge—but correct me if I am wrong. Why is it different for Adani?</p> <p>Ms Collins: The difference in this case was that the approval for the original Adani project happened around the same time as the Reef Trust was established. It has been part of conversations with Adani over a couple of years that this was a possibility for Adani. It is only recently that the variation has been made, but it has been in conversations with Adani ever since the Reef Trust was set up.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: You are looking for confidence in how robust the governance arrangements are around the Reef Trust.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Well, I will not get that, but I am looking for details.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: What we will do is take that on notice. It is important to realise that the Reef Trust is not only informed by an Independent Expert Panel that is chaired by Professor Ian Chubb but is also overseen by the Reef Trust Joint Steering Committee, which has senior officials from both the Commonwealth and the Queensland government. That is the headline. As an Australian government,</p>	Page 96 and 97 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000424

				<p>our advice is to make sure that you would not put something into something that was not robust. As a delegate under the EPBC Act, you have to be confident that the offset is being delivered and the mechanism is enabled to do that. As a delegate you turn your mind to two things—that what you are trying to offset is being offset and that the vehicle you are choosing to do that has the appropriate governance around it to give you confidence that it will be delivered. We will give you advice on our confidence around the Reef Trust as a vehicle to be able to deliver that offset.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What I would like you to advice me specifically is whether or not the minister's involvement is diminished by no longer having this as a marine offset strategy under the permit conditions but instead using the Reef Trust pathway, whether the community has the opportunity to even see what was the strategy and is now just some amorphous blob in the Reef Trust and the level of diminution of community involvement. I expect to be disappointed on both fronts, but I would await your response.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I am hopeful you will not be disappointed. We will take that on notice.</p>		
104	1.5: ESD	Waters	Briefing of the Minister - Adani	<p>Mr Cahill: Ongoing conversations with companies. Sometimes companies approach us and sometimes it is just in a normal engagement. What I would say with Adani is that in the conversation with them—and I was not involved in that—they would have wanted to understand how the Reef Trust would work before they agreed to any variation, which is what you would expect of any company when they are trying to ensure that they accord with the conditions we have set.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Was the minister briefed on</p>	Page 98 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000425

				<p>this proposed change? Ms Collins: No, he was not. Senator WATERS: Are you telling me that in this highly charged project, which has been in the news for the last three months solid, the department was proposing to change the conditions and did not think it necessary to brief the minister? Ms Collins: The variation was consistent with government policy around the establishment of the Reef Trust. The Reef Trust was set up specifically to enable offsets to be delivered from proponents who had approval under the EPBC Act. The decision was made in accordance with current government policy. Senator WATERS: Has the minister subsequently been briefed? Ms Collins: The minister's office has received information. I do not know whether the minister has been briefed personally. Senator WATERS: Did they ask for it or did you provide it? Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall. Senator WATERS: Thank you. Mr Cahill: Senator, I will flag that we regularly update the secretary of the minister's office on the vast majority of our administrative decisions. We will check what we briefed the minister's office on.</p>		
105	1.5: ESD	Waters	INPEX Ichthys project	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. Thank you. Can I move very quickly to a different project, the INPEX Ichthys project—the North West Shelf offshore gas. In a few sentences, because I am conscious that I have had a lot of time, can you give me an update on their work to deliver the western Top End marine megafauna program. I understand they are many years overdue and very late with payment.</p>	Page 100 and 101 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000426

				<p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Is there anyone that is here who has that detail?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We will have to take that one on notice. We do not have the detail with us.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I will run through these just in case you can shed some light on them. I am interested in what the cause of the delay is and who the company have been consulting with in order to develop that megafauna program. What evidence is there that they are actually doing anything to create this program? Can any of those be answered yet?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No, but it is helpful to have the list of what you want us to answer so we can make sure we give you a comprehensive response to the questions on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I understand that the funds under that program were meant to flow in the third quarter of 2016 and that has not occurred yet. I am interested in why and what the hold-up is. Is it coming or are they trying to amend their conditions in the manner, perhaps, that Adani has benefited from, a deferral of payment falling due. On a related issue, I am interested in whether they have identified a final site for the marine reserve. Again, still can't help?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We will get the full list from you, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Under their Coastal Offset Strategy they were meant to have announced those final sites in January 2014, and that was obviously three years ago. So why has the department let the company default on their obligations for more than three years? I am keen to get a response on that when you can.</p>		
106	1.5: ESD	Waters	Toondah Harbour –	Mr Barker: The general nature of the advice was	Page 101	SQ17-000427

			<p>Wetlands Referral</p>	<p>about impacts on the ecological components of the wetland, including migratory birds. The advice went through the impacts and gave an indication of the likely scale of those impacts against the relevant ecological components of the wetland.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did it have a recommendation as to whether the referral should proceed, based on the scope and scale of those impacts?</p> <p>Mr Barker: The advice we get from line areas is generally around the more factual matrix, if you like, of the scale of the impacts because the decision about whether there is likely to be a significant impact is then a decision for the decision maker, either the delegate or the minister.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did that advice come to a suggestion about whether the extent of the impacts was likely to be significant?</p> <p>Mr Barker: From recollection, no, it was not. But I am going on recollection and so I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you could check on that, that would be very helpful. Are you able to provide a copy of that advice?</p> <p>Mr Barker: Yes, I can. A copy of that advice has been provided under FOI and so I can provide you with a copy of the advice as it was provided under FOI.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I was not aware; I thought it had been heavily redacted with the FOI provisions. I am after the unredacted version.</p>	<p>Monday 22 May</p>	
107	1.5: ESD	Waters	<p>Department meetings with proponent – Toondah Harbour</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: If you can provide as much of the first advice on the first referral as you can, that would be deeply appreciated. Can I also ask what meetings the department has had with the proponents in relation to the withdrawal of the original referral?</p>	<p>Page 101 and 102 Monday 22 May</p>	SQ17-000428

				<p>Mr Barker: There has been a number of discussions with the proponent prior to the re-referral, if you like, of the new project. I would have to take on notice details of dates and the like. It is very frequent for the department to have quite regular engagements with the proponents as they refer projects and then move through the regulatory steps.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you could take on notice the dates of those meetings or communications about the withdrawal, that would be great. Can you outline for me the key differences between the old proposal and the new one?</p>		
108	1.5: ESD	Whish-Wilson	Allegation of non-compliance – Macquarie Harbour	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: You went to Tasmania in February, correct?</p> <p>Ms Collins: That is true.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Following that, there was an allegation of non-compliance. Can you tell us who that allegation was from?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that on notice. Normally, we do not disclose information like that.</p>	Page 106 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000429
109	1.5: ESD	Whish-Wilson	Compliance and monitoring – Macquarie Harbour	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: The EPA, as part of the Tasmanian government, recently announced a new biomass cap for Macquarie Harbour. Did you have any input into that new biomass cap, or any discussions with the EPA about that?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I understand that the Tasmanian EPA has written to the three marine farming operators in the harbour proposing a new biomass cap. They are still consulting on that, and I believe they are due to make a decision by the end of the month.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: The reason I am asking is I want to know if you have had any input into that at all, as to whether your compliance monitoring or your following up of the allegations</p>	Page 106 and 107 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000430

				<p>is going to be incorporated into the decision of the Tasmanian government. I would hope that they would respect your independent audit of the situation down there.</p> <p>Ms Collins: The department's role in relation to marine farming activity in the harbour is as far as it could have a significant impact on any matters protected under the Act.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Correct.</p> <p>Ms Collins: In this case, this is the Maugean skate and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The approval that is issued under the EPBC Act is that it was not a controlled action as long as it was undertaken in a particular manner. Our interest in ensuring compliance is that those particular manners have been implemented. As you say, that does involve monitoring activity. I am aware that the Tasmanian government has been taking into consideration the monitoring activity that is being conducted by the companies.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Specifically, how many wardens, rangers or inspectors have been employed and given monitoring powers under the EPBC Act under the department's guidance? Have there been any? What kinds of resources are you putting into the monitoring?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We have legal delegations and certification that we issue to compliance officers. We can take on notice the number of staff that have been involved particularly with this compliance activity.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay, if you could, take that on notice—and whether the project has been subject to any compliance audit, even a desktop review, previous to that or any other resources that you have—</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Whish-Wilson, can I just get an idea from you of</p>		
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				<p>how many more questions you have?</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Two more very short questions. I think we are all out of—</p> <p>CHAIR: That is fine, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We will take on notice the processes, with the qualification that we have not finalised the investigation yet.</p>		
110	1.5: ESD	Whish-Wilson	History of EPBC – Macquarie Harbour context	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: This is a pretty broad question, Mr Cahill, or for anyone else who might want to answer it. In your understanding of the history of the EPBC, has a minister's decision to grant approval for a not-controlled action in a particular manner—using your terminology from your answers to questions on notice—on a project ever resulted in an impact that has led to either an endangered species becoming critically endangered or the extinction of an endangered species?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I am pretty confident in saying, no, that has never happened, but we would want to take that on notice and come back definitively on that. But I am pretty confident.</p>	Page 107 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000431
111	1.5: ESD	Whish-Wilson	Tassal's expansion of salmon farming at Okehampton Bay	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: This is my last question. In relation to Tassal's expansion of salmon farming at Okehampton Bay, in the south-east of Tasmania, around Orford, I just want to clarify: have you been approached, or has Tassal approached the department, in relation to this project? At what point does a proponent need to approach the department to get approval around what is an action and what is not a controlled action under EPBC? By 'proponent' I mean presumably Tassal, but perhaps it could be the state government.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I am aware that Tassal has actually approached us, but I will have to get an update,</p>	Page 107 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000432

				<p>unless Ms Collins has the status of that approach about Okehampton Bay.</p> <p>Ms Collins: I can recall that we have been approached, but I just cannot recall exactly well enough to say confidently the decision on that one, so we will have to take it on notice.</p>		
112	1.5: Office of the Supervising Scientist	Ludlam	Ranger uranium mine: tailings storage facility: decommissioning date	<p>Senator LUDLAM: When is the expected decommissioning date for the tailings storage facility?</p> <p>Mr Tayler: I would have to take that on notice for the exact date. I believe it was towards the end of the rehabilitation process, which would put it in the 2024-25 period, but I will confirm that for you.</p>	Page 96 and 97 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000410
113	1.5: Office of the Supervising Scientist	Ludlam	Ranger uranium mine: tailings storage facility: water seepage	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Could you provide us with an estimate of how much water is seeping out from under the TSF every year? We have had order of magnitude estimates going back a couple of years.</p> <p>Mr Tayler: For the whole dam? I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 97 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000413
114	1.5: Office of the Supervising Scientist	Ludlam	Ranger uranium mine: water volumes	<p>Mr Tayler: There are already statutory water quality limits in the creek surrounding the mine from an operational perspective. The environmental requirements I referred to are the environmental requirements of the Commonwealth of Australia for the operation of the Ranger uranium mine, which are essentially approval conditions for the mine. That is where the rehabilitation objectives are prescribed. It is a statutory requirement that the company meet those rehabilitation objectives, and they include things like protecting the World Heritage values of Kakadu National Park. To give you the specific answer that you are asking, I would have to check with the ERA again on their work program.</p>	Page 98 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000415

				<p>Senator LUDLAM: If you could.</p> <p>Mr Tayler: I am happy to do that on notice. I know that their current priority is to commence the groundwater modelling of the TSF area. I just could not tell you exactly when that was due to be completed, but I can find out.</p>		
115	1.5: Office of the Supervising Scientist	Ludlam	Ranger uranium mine: approval process for the Ranger Mine Closure Plan	<p>Senator LUDLAM: That is great. Thank you. Can you just clarify for us the approval process for the DMCP and which minister is responsible for approval of the plan, if you know.</p> <p>Mr Tayler: I think it would need joint approval from both the Commonwealth minister and the Territory minister.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: You sound about as vague as I was just then. Are you able to check that for us on notice?</p> <p>Mr Tayler: Certainly.</p>	Page 98 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000416
116	1.5: ESD	Urquhart	Western Sydney Airport	Has the Department received a request from the Environment Minister to provide a Statement of Reasons with regard to the decision to grant approval to Western Sydney Airport? If so, when was that provided to the Minister?	Written	SQ17-000568
117	1.5: ESD	Reynolds	Tree clearing applications	<p>In 2013-2015, there were approximately 54 tree clearing applications approved in Queensland. 44 applications were 'cleared' by the Department as not requiring further investigation. – were the obligations under the EPBC Act considered in the approval?</p> <p>Of the 10 applications left, how many were clients of Mr Peter Spies?</p> <p>Of the 44 applications 'cleared' by the Department, was a consultant engaged to consider or prepare a report or risk assessment?</p>	Written	SQ17-000569

118	1.5: ESD	Reynolds	Investigation	What role did the State or Conservation Groups play in referring or recommending investigation of Mr Spies, or his clients applications/approvals to the EPBC compliance unit?	Written	SQ17-000570
119	1.5: ESD	Reynolds	Qualification and Experience	Is there a “minimum standard” or published required standards of Qualification and Experience to prepare referrals/reports under the EPBC Act?	Written	SQ17-000571
120	1.5: ESD	Reynolds	Allegations	Was Mr Spies afforded procedural fairness with respect to the allegations and/or concerns raised against him and/or his reports? What communication did the Department have with Mr Spies in relation to relaying information to him? Was a letter of explanation provided to Mr Spies in relation to the rejection of his applications/reports and was he provided with the opportunity to respond to any concerns or allegations?	Written	SQ17-000572
121	1.5: ESD	Reynolds	Correspondence	Could the Department please provide any emails from the Wilderness Society, in particular Dr Tim Seelig and Andrew Picone, and Australian Conservation Foundation, in relation to “Olive Vale”, “Strathmore”, “Prestwood”, “Kingvale”, “Forest Home”, and “Wombinoo”; and Mr Peter Spies between dates May 4 2015 and 1 November 2016.	Written	SQ17-000573
122	1.5: ESD	Roberts	Control Policies	Do control policies face the burden-of-proof, instead of freedom policies, and face a high (eg beyond-a-reasonable-doubt) or at least medium (eg on-the-balance-of-probabilities) standard-of-proof rather than a low one (eg the precautionary principle)?	Written	SQ17-000629

123	1.6: ESD	Moore	Helium balloons	<p>Senator MOORE: That was one of the key aspects of the report. Did the issue of balloons come up at all? The use of balloons is a personal issue of mine in this space. In the same inquiry it came out very seriously—the issue of having some kind of regulation around those products. I am wondering whether you are aware of any movement in that space?</p> <p>Mr McNee: Senator, you are talking about the release of, for example, helium balloons?</p> <p>Senator MOORE: It is more than the helium balloons; it is actually the balloon product which then takes on the same kind of damaging impact in terms of waste, particularly in the marine environment. It does not seem to get the same profile.</p> <p>Mr McNee: I would probably have to check in more detail, but I certainly think that, in at least the last few years, balloons have not featured as part of that conversation.</p>	Page 69 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000433
124	1.6: ESD	Waters	Coal blending	<p>Senator WATERS: Do we know whether coal blending would result in low estimates of actual admissions, just as a matter of physics?</p> <p>Mr McNee: I would not know that. I would have to take that on notice and see if we have any information in relation to the work that we do.</p>	Page 73 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000437
125	1.6: ESD	Waters	Continuous monitoring	<p>Senator WATERS: Sure, but you want that to be accurate. Do you have a sense that continuous monitoring would improve the accuracy of that annual data?</p> <p>Mr McNee: I would have to take that on notice because, in fact, it is not necessarily a straightforward question. If you look at, for example, some of the manuals that set down the framework for the collection of information, there</p>	Page 73 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000434

				are quite complex formulas that sit around how you work out the volumes of fuels that are being used and those types of things. I would probably need to look through that with experts under the NPI to make a judgement on that.		
126	1.6: ESD	Waters	National Environment Protection Council arrangements	<p>Senator WATERS: I have just two final small questions. These ones will hopefully be quick. Is it your view or the view of the department that the current National Environment Protection Council arrangements can deliver a robust national toxic pollutant inventory, or is it necessary to create a stronger national arrangement with capacity and authority to audit data, investigate anomalies and misleading reports, and prosecute polluters who report in a false or misleading way?</p> <p>Mr McNee: Certainly I can say that there is an ongoing interest from all jurisdictions in ensuring that the National Pollutant Inventory is capable of delivering what it set out to do. I am not sure whether you are aware or not that the ministers agreed and announced quite a comprehensive review of the National Pollutant Inventory, as required under the legislation. In fact, the review canvasses many of the points that you have just made there about whether we have a thing. I am in a position to table the terms of reference for that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Yes, could you. What was the date of that announcement?</p> <p>Mr McNee: I think it was 10 March. Sorry, actually I will have to come back to you on that.</p>	Page 74 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000435
127	1.6: ESD	Ludlam	Ranger Uranium Mine	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Is the decommissioning of the mine being treated as a nuclear action under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>Mr Tayler: No.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you describe for us why</p>	Page 96 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000436

				<p>not?</p> <p>Mr Tayler: I would prefer that questions specific to the EPBC Act were directed to the Environmental Standards Division, or we could take it on notice if that is okay.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I think that is fair enough. If you can take it on notice, but I guess the answer is not going to come from you, is it? I think we have already let these people go.</p>		
128	1.6: ESD	Waters	Inpex – Western Top End Megafauna	<p>In a few sentences, can you give an update on Inpex's work to deliver the Western Top End Marine Megafauna program? Why hasn't the money started to flow yet?</p> <p>Who are they consulting with to develop these projects?</p> <p>Where is the evidence of this program developing?</p>	Written	SQ17-000643
129	1.6: ESD	Waters	Inpex – Western Top End Megafauna	<p>We have seen a copy of the agreement between the NT government and Inpex signed in October 2014. In Annexure D, the budget is laid out, and funds were supposed to start flowing in the third quarter of 2016. Why didn't that occur?</p> <p>What is the holdup with that project? Does Inpex accept that they need to fund it, or are they still trying to dodge that obligation?</p>	Written	SQ17-000644
130	1.6: ESD	Waters	Inpex – Liman Bight Conservation Reserve	<p>Is there a final site for the marine reserves?</p> <p>When do you expect them to be acquired and finalised?</p> <p>In Inpex's Coastal Offset Strategy published on their website, there is a very detailed timeline for developing this marine reserve. The final sites were</p>	Written	SQ17-000645

				to be announced in January 2014, and the managements plans finalised in October 2014. We're now about three years behind. Why has the Department allowed this major company to default on their obligations for so long?		
131	2.1: DERD	Chisholm	Emissions Reduction Fund programs	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: What about the actual cost of the programs themselves? What do they cost the government to run?</p> <p>Ms Milnes: That will all be taken into account in the cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I am asking you how much they cost.</p> <p>Ms Milnes: I cannot recall in the case of the fuel efficiency standard, other than to say that those costs are small as a proportion of the total benefits. I can provide you with that detail. It is contained in the draft regulation impact statement that was released for consultation last December. I can find that information and provide it for you.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Thank you.</p>	Page 79 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000350
132	2.1: DERD	Waters	Parliamentary Budget Office figures	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes. We had a discussion earlier about whether there would be a final auction round. That is a question mark at this stage, as I understand it. In relation to those PBO figures, you said to ask the PBO. Obviously the PBO would agree with its own figures. My question was whether the department agrees with the PBO's figures.</p> <p>Ms Wilson: Unfortunately, all they have released is at a very high level. When it comes to the assumptions that they may have made around price, I would have to take that on notice and have a more detailed look for you.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p>	Page 80 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000351

133	2.1: DERD	Waters	Submissions received	<p>Senator WATERS: Can I just ask about the nature of those who have made the 330 submissions that you have received to date? What sorts of categories have they come from?</p> <p>Ms Wilson: From across every sector of the economy. We have had a range of businesses, non-government organisations, peak bodies, scientists: there has been a whole range of submissions from across every sector of the economy. It has been a good mix.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Any from the Minerals Council?</p> <p>Ms Wilson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Any from Adani?</p> <p>Ms Wilson: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Any from coral reef scientists?</p> <p>Ms Wilson: I will take that on notice. I am sorry; I do not have the list in front of me.</p>	Page 81 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000353
134	2.1: ICCEI	Roberts	Renewable Energy Target	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you tell me, going back to the introduction of the Renewable Energy Target Scheme—I know it preceded this department and this government, in 2013—what was the target set by John Howard's government for the Renewable Energy Target? My understanding is that it was 20 per cent. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Archer: No. The 20 per cent target came into being under a Labor government. Previously, when the Renewable Energy Target was first introduced, it was a much lower target. I will have to take that on notice, but it was a far more modest figure.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Was it much lower than 20?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes.</p>	Page 84 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000355
135	2.1: ICCEI	Back	Wind Farm	Referring to QON 9, dated 5 May 2016 which	Written	SQ17-000574

			Commissioner	asked about the increase in noise impact from an increase in wind turbine size and referred to the Moller and Pederson study, the answer given referred to both preliminary advice and subsequent advice provided by the Independent Scientific Committee. Will you please provide a copy of the advice to the Committee?		
136	2.1: ICCEI	Back	Bald Hills wind farm	<p>Referring to QON 287, dated 14 March 2017, in which I asked questions of the CER regarding the noise non-compliance of the Bald Hills Wind Farm, I refer to the CER's response:</p> <p>The Clean Energy Regulator has received a report that outlines an assessment of operational noise of the power station. This report was commissioned by the Bald Hills Wind Farm Pty Ltd and it was provided to the Clean Energy Regulator by the Wind Farm Commissioner in late January 2017. The report, in summary, says there have been minor breaches of a permit condition and a curtailment strategy has been implemented:</p> <p>'The noise levels exceeded the applicable NZS6808:1998 noise limits by up to 1.2dB for a limited range of wind speeds during the night period at one stakeholder property (Property 28, where no noise agreement is in place) and one tenement property (Tenement Property B).'</p> <p>Would you please provide a copy of the report referred to above to the Committee?</p>	Written	SQ17-000575
137	2.2: DERD	Urquhart	National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy document	<p>Senator URQUHART: You say 'a special document'. Is that document available?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes, it is publicly available. It is on the website.</p>	Page 86 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000356

				Ms Brunoro: It is the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy. We can provide that to you.		
138	2.2: ICCEI	Moore	Battery versus pumped hydro	<p>Senator MOORE: Has the department been asked by the government to provide advice on the relative costs of battery versus pumped hydro particularly in the context of the government's recent announcements regarding the expansion of pumped hydro storage? I know there was considerable discussion on that earlier in the day. I was not in the room but I know that was the subject of considerable discussion. Has the department been asked by the government to provide analysis or details about the costings?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I might have to take that on notice from the way that you have phrased the question. I can say: have we provided advice generally on alternatives or different ways of providing storage.</p>	Page 89 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000369
139	2.2: DERD	Waters	Money spent on climate change adaptation	<p>Senator WATERS: How much money is the Commonwealth spending on climate change adaptation?</p> <p>Ms Evans: That is a bigger question than just the adaptation research facility. There are range of things—I will defer to Ms Wilson.</p> <p>Ms Wilson: The government is making a range of major investments. I am sure my colleague Nick Gales from the Australian Antarctic Division would have spoken about the 2017-18 budget allocation of \$49.8 million to meet the government's commitment to providing continued year-round support for high-priority science and long-term monitoring on Macquarie Island. The government has invested \$23.9 million over six years in the National Environmental Science program's earth systems and climate change hub. CSIRO are</p>	Page 92 and 93 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000373

				<p>investing in the new Climate Science Centre in Hobart, bringing together the core of CSIRO's capability in climate modelling and observations. That is one of the reasons we have created this partnership between the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and the CSIRO—to bring the wealth of knowledge and expertise those two organisations have together. I apologise Senator Urquhart as I am going to repeat what I said to you. There has been \$56 million invested in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility since 2007, and there is a wealth of research there. But what we heard when we went out and about and spoke to people was that what they needed now was guidance to help inform their decisions. That is why there is something now like CoastAdapt. The research is great, but they really now need assistance and guidance to help them take decisions on how to adapt to a changing climate, and that is what CoastAdapt was designed to do.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you please take it on notice to cumulate those figures so that I can understand the total quantum of spend on adaptation?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We will take it on notice, but it is difficult to quantify some of the adaptation expenditure. We talked earlier about the fact that you see it in all sorts of programs throughout the portfolio—part of our reef funding, part of our threatened species funding and so on.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Perhaps you could estimate a proportion of the work that gets done in those—</p> <p>Ms Evans: Difficult, but we can put the programs where there is a direct link—we can put those together.</p>		
140	2.2: DERD	Waters	Sources regarding	Senator WATERS: What sea-level-rise figures	Page 93	SQ17-000375

			sea-level-rise figures	<p>are you working with to inform your adaptation work for 2050 and 2100? What sources do you rely upon for those estimates?</p> <p>Ms Brunoro: We will take that on notice. We have drawn from the biannual climate projections that are done by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology for the predominant cases, and, when it comes to concentration pathways, it uses the IPCC work.</p>	Tuesday 23 May	
141	2.2: DERD	Waters	Budget for tidal inundation and coastal erosion in the Torres Strait	<p>Senator WATERS: What is the financial commitment from within the 2017-18 budget for tidal inundation and coastal erosion mitigation in the Torres Strait, and under what budget line items can I find that?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 93 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000378
142	2.2: DERD	Waters	Policies for tidal inundation and coastal erosion in the Torres Strait	<p>Senator WATERS: Which policies account for and address the impacts of coastal erosion and tidal inundation in the Torres Strait and, likewise, what line items are those policies linked to? We were trying to find it, and we were hoping to find it, but I have not been able to find it. I would love to find it.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We will take it on notice.</p>	Page 93 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000379
143	2.2: DERD	Waters	Special Review 3	<p>Senator WATERS: Minister, why has the government not responded to that special review?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Well, the government is considering its response in the context of the overall review of climate change policies, Senator Waters.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Section 60 of the act requires a response within six months of the report. That was due by February. So that is a breach of the act by the government. Would you accept that?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I do not have a copy of the act in front of me, so I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 54 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000478

144	2.3: ICCEI	Waters	Briefing the Minister	<p>Senator WATERS: Do you have the opportunity to brief the minister on those renewable technologies and on the great success of ARENA and CEFC?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We do.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Have you done so?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: On how many occasions?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 94 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000382
145	2.3: ICCEI	Waters	Staffing figures for program 2.3	<p>Senator WATERS: How many FTEs have you got in 2.3?</p> <p>Mr Archer: That is a good question. We have a clean energy innovation team. I think it would have an FTE of around seven, but I will confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has that been steady since the program's formation?</p> <p>Mr Archer: More or less would be my answer. I guess the size of the teams change as our priorities change and as people come and go. I think it probably has increased over time as we have taken on board the agencies within the portfolio and more fully appreciated some of the work we need to do both in terms of our oversight of those agencies but also on the issues that we deal with together with them in terms of clean energy innovation. I suspect that that number has increased over time.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. If you could take on notice the precise figures that would be very helpful.</p>	Page 94 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000385
146	2.3: ICCEI	Chisholm	Land clearing in the Barrier Reef catchment area	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Do you have any data about how much land has been cleared in the Barrier Reef catchment area?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I do not definitively. We have what has</p>	Page 89 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000417

				been subject to referral or anything that we have been looking at. But definitively and more broadly, I would have to take that on notice.		
147	2.3: ICCEI	Ludlam	Discussions with former Liberal Western Australian energy minister	<p>Senator LUDLAM: What discussions, if any, did the former Liberal Western Australian energy minister or Premier have about a state based renewable energy target?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: None that I am aware of, but that is not to say that there were not.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Are you able to go back and check for us on notice and see whether there were.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We can take that on notice, sure.</p>	Page 67 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000475
148	2.3: ICCEI	Back	Renewable Energy Target for 2020	The renewable energy target for 2020 is 33,850 GWh. What percentage does this represent of total predicted energy consumption for 2020?	Written	SQ17-000580
149	2.3: ICCEI	Roberts	Energy Prices	What proportion of high & rising energy prices are due to RET & other climate policies?	Written	SQ17-000642
150	3.1: AAD	Urquhart	Labour hire	<p>Senator URQUHART: I now want to touch on the labour hire companies. Does the Antarctic Division in the department use any labour hire companies to source staff?</p> <p>Dr Gales: We have in many ways more itinerant staffing arrangements than many departments because of our peaks in summer, when we recruit annually a large number of people to travel south and run our stations and support the science we undertake through that. That is undertaken through normal—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: They are employed through the Antarctic Division?</p> <p>Dr Gales: They are employed through the department. In some areas the department has used</p>	Page 8 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000387

				<p>labour hire companies to recruit staff in, usually for shorter term areas of work.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What would those sorts of areas be? What sort of expertise?</p> <p>Dr Gales: I would feel more comfortable to take the question on notice, just so I can ensure that I am exactly accurate rather than listing the couple of areas that I am aware of now.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I am happy for you to take it on notice. I have a number of other questions, so I will run through them and maybe you can then give me a comprehensive outlay on notice. Does the department use labour hire agreements? If you employ people, do you then have an agreement with the labour hire company? If you have used them, for how long have you used labour hire companies? How many staff are employed under those arrangements? I know that might be spasmodic but maybe you can give us detail around that. How many staff are employed by the division or the department as contractors? Who authorises the use of the labour hire companies? Is the minister aware of the reliance on those labour hire arrangements? Do staff under those labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff? Do staff under those arrangements receive the same pay and conditions as permanent staff? Do these temporary staff have access to the same systems and databases? Is this a concern from a security perspective—so, if they do, what sort of security do you have in place? Does it impact on the productivity of the division or department if staff employed via labour hire arrangements are unable to access the required resources to do their jobs—so, if they do not have the same access, do they then have issues with how they can actually do the job? That is the compact of questions.</p>		
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151	3.1: AAD	Whish-Wilson	Antarctic task force	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you provide an update on the outcomes of the joint Commonwealth, state and industry Antarctic task force?</p> <p>Dr Gales: In many ways the government's launch of the Antarctic Strategy has been the main mechanism through which we are delivering the clearly articulated priorities and deliverables through there and working through that process in delivering the various actions through the years. The task force at this stage has not met for some time. I would have to go back and check the date on which it last met, but it was some time towards the middle of last year, from memory. I would have to double-check that.</p>	Page 10 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000390
152	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	DBOM model	<p>Dr Gales: I think it is important in terms of context. It is certainly the case that the design, build, operate and maintain model—DBOM model—has not been used extensively for ships in Australian acquisitions. It has been used very widely for other large capital—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: When was it last used for a maritime vessel?</p> <p>Dr Gales: I am not sure I can give an exact instance.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Maybe there is no example.</p> <p>Dr Gales: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Maybe there is no example in the Australian context.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We are going to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: All right.</p>	Page 14 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000392
153	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Shipbuilders	<p>Senator XENOPHON: You have asserted that</p>	Page 15	SQ17-000393

				<p>there was a good deal of discussion with established shipbuilders. Can you provide details of those discussions. Which shipbuilders did you have discussions with? Who were the shipbuilders? Were they Australian based shipbuilders such as Austal or ASC or others? Please provide those details. Did it include overseas shipbuilders? What benchmarking was done early on to establish what the capacity was for Australian industry to do this project?</p> <p>Dr Gales: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	<p>Tuesday 23 May</p>	
154	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Level of scrutiny	<p>Dr de Brouwer: Can I just follow up Dr Gales's response with two elements. The discussion around the design, build, operate and maintain model was also premised on the experience with the <i>Aurora Australis</i>, where the design and build is separate from the operate and maintain. The attraction of a unified DBOM model is that it is incentive compatible with the design and build elements with the operate and maintain. That is, the people who design and build do not pass off some of the risks to the operate and maintain elements of the contract. So there was a very strong attraction to the DBOM model. That was also subject to very extensive scrutiny from the Department of Finance and from central agencies.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Can you provide on notice what that level of scrutiny was and what those benchmarks were?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes, I will. There were also extensive cabinet processes built around that with the evaluation from the central agencies and Finance.</p>	<p>Page 15 and 16 Tuesday 23 May</p>	SQ17-000395
155	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Documentary evidence	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Back in August 2012, the minister was advised that an Australian build would come at a 40 per cent higher cost involving a longer</p>	<p>Page 17 Tuesday 23 May</p>	SQ17-000399

				<p>time frame. That is referred to at page 20 of the Auditor-General's report. It basically says these views were not adequately supported by relevant documentary evidence. On what basis was the assertion made that it would cost 40 per cent more for an Australian build? The Auditor-General's report said that these views were not adequately supported by relevant documentary evidence.</p> <p>Dr Gales: You are asking the specifics of the basis of that. We are happy to take that on notice and respond to you on exactly what analyses were behind that.</p>		
156	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Cost of build	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Who made that decision to say that Australian industry was going to be 40 per cent more expensive than an overseas build?</p> <p>Dr Gales: I will have to go back on notice and check.</p>	Page 17 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000402
157	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Benchmarking range of prices	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Right. Because of time constraints—in March, on page 36 of the Auditor-General's report it says the RFP ship price was \$196 million. The RFT price—the request for tender—was \$458 million, a 133 per cent increase. The annual operating costs excluding fuel were \$12.7 million on the RFP. It went to \$32 million on the RFT—a 189 per cent increase. And so on, and so on—including crew numbers. Is that something that concerns you? Can you explain how there could be such a huge difference between the RFP and the RFT prices?</p> <p>Dr Gales: In some ways it might be most helpful if we, on notice, provide you with the benchmarking range and where this sat within the benchmarking range, because in fact— while absolutely at the very upper end—the build came within the benchmarking range that we had and the operation</p>	Page 18 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000405

				and maintenance of the vessel was for a much larger vessel.		
158	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Chartering costs	<p>Senator XENOPHON: The cost over 34 years is \$56.24 million per annum. What are we paying now for the current chartering costs, roughly?</p> <p>Dr Gales: I will give you the actual figures on notice, because there are different—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: It is under \$52 million, is it not?</p> <p>Dr Gales: Part of the difficulty with these figures is that some of the figures reported by ANAO do not include fuel and insurance and other ones do. So I would much rather—I would be more comfortable providing you with the correct figures, which include all of the same so they are more comparable.</p>	Page 18 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000408
159	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Costings	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Can you, on notice, provide details of how much has been spent on travel by members of the department or the division to the Netherlands or Romania? How much has been spent to date? how much has been spent overall to date on the project? When is steel expected to be cut? I think you said maybe August. And, given ANAO's report, has any consideration been given to what the cost would be to terminate the contract and start afresh?</p>	Page 18 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000409
160	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Functional Requirements	Please provide details of the top level functional requirements of the Icebreaker	Written	SQ17-000531
161	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Australian Requirements	Please identify the Australian Antarctic Division unique Australian functional requirements	Written	SQ17-000532
162	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker –	How do the unique functional requirements	Written	SQ17-000533

			Technical Requirements	translate to unique technical requirements		
163	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Cost Drivers	Was analysis carried out to identify cost drivers amongst the unique Australian requirements a. If so: i. What were the cost drivers? ii. What analysis was carried out in respect of those cost drivers from a value for money perspective iii. Were any requirements eased as a result of the analysis b: If not, why not?	Written	SQ17-000534
164	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Contingency	Is there a project contingency on the total contract price and, if so, what is the contingency as a percentage of the total contract value?	Written	SQ17-000535
165	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Project Contingency	What project contingency did the successful tenderer apply to its final price?	Written	SQ17-000536
166	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker - Pricing	The Auditor General revealed a significant difference between the RFP and RFP price. What was the cause of that difference?	Written	SQ17-000537
167	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Price Rise	The Auditor General revealed a significant difference between the RFP and final contracted price. Please detail each item that caused a price rise and the magnitude of the price rise	Written	SQ17-000538
168	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Initial Payment	What was the initial payment made at contract signature?	Written	SQ17-000539
169	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Payment Milestones	Please list each payment milestone, its planned date and the amount that will be paid.	Written	SQ17-000540

170	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Technical milestones	Please list each major technical milestone and its planned date.	Written	SQ17-000541
171	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Preliminary design	Has a preliminary design review been conducted?	Written	SQ17-000542
172	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – critical design	Has a critical design review been conducted?	Written	SQ17-000543
173	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – status	What is the status of the build?	Written	SQ17-000544
174	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker - Risks	What are the current risk items (in the project risk register)?	Written	SQ17-000545
175	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – mitigation strategies	What are the mitigation and fall-back strategies for each of those risks?	Written	SQ17-000546
176	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Project Staff	Please list key project positions (e.g. Project Manager, Project Engineer etc.) and their qualification and experience. Please include experience in running a ship building program and whether that experience was as a government customer or as a ship supplier.	Written	SQ17-000547
177	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Included items	What is included in the terms of Design, Build, Operate and Maintain?	Written	SQ17-000548
178	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Payments	How much has been paid to the successful tenderer in relation to the contract?	Written	SQ17-000549
179	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Contract	Please provide a copy of the contract termination clause.	Written	SQ17-000550
180	3.1: AAD	Xenophon	Icebreaker – Costs to terminate	Other than the amount already expended, what are the costs to terminate the contract at this point?	Written	SQ17-000551

181	4.1: Energy	Roberts	Research on cheap energy	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Cheap energy is fundamental to protecting the environment: has any research been done within your department on the veracity of that statement? In other words, will high energy costs hurt the environment directly or indirectly?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I am not aware of that. We will take that on notice.</p>	Page 18 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000376
182	4.1: Energy	Waters	Discussion with Snowy Hydro and TransGrid	<p>Senator WATERS: Was this issue discussed with Snowy Hydro—the absence of inclusion of the transmission cost?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: At what stage?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: At any stage.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We have had recent discussions with Snowy Hydro and TransGrid, who would be the ones doing the transmission, about processes and what might need to be done. That is relatively recent.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you be a bit more precise when you say 'relatively recent'?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 104 and 105 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000438
183	4.1: Energy	Roberts	South Australian Electricity Prices	<p>Senator ROBERTS: South Australia has the highest energy costs in the country and amongst the highest in the world. Is that correct?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I do not know about the highest in the world.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: In terms of retailed electricity prices for 2016-17, yes, South Australia was around 32c.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thirty-two?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: Cents per kilowatt hour, which was higher than the other jurisdictions, yes.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Just to be clear on that, these numbers we are providing are numbers for the National Electricity Market. They do not include the Northern Territory or Western Australia.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: That is correct.</p>	Page 110 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000649

				<p>Mr Heferen: Typically, all of the material we have is on the NEM, given the Commonwealth's role in that, and no role in either Western Australia or the Northern Territory. But as far as the NEM goes, Mr O'Toole, we probably ought to take that on notice just to double-check that they are in fact the highest prices in the country.</p>		
184	4.1: Energy	Roberts	Energy prices	<p>Senator ROBERTS: What proportion of high and rising energy prices is due to poor price regulation? Mr Heferen: Zero, I suspect. Senator ROBERTS: What proportion of high and rising energy prices is due to market protection policies? Mr Heferen: I might get in trouble answering that one. CHAIR: Would you like to take that on notice? Mr Heferen: Yes, we will take that on notice.</p>	Page 114 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000439
185	4.1: Energy	Ludlam	Generators	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I need you to take some stuff on notice, recognising that you are very unlikely to have this with you at the table. For the listed companies on page 19, which is basically a run-down of every generator over a certain size on the south-west network, can you please find for us on notice—not by the day after tomorrow, because I suspect this is going to take a little bit of time—or point to where we can find this ourselves, how many hours each of these generators ran for financial years going back to 2010-11. I know this is a bit of a steep ask. There are about 20 or 25 generators listed on the table—and how much they were paid, how much they received. The table I am reading from gives me a megawatt figure and also gives me a share of capacity credit figure, but it does not actually tell me how much was forked out or for how long these power stations</p>	Page 115 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000440

				<p>ran. I guess in a really hot peak you might get somebody that has to run for 15 minutes or whatever. Is what I am seeking reasonably clear?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We will take that on notice. It may be that that material is not available to us, but we will do what we can—</p>		
186	4.1: Energy	Ludlam	Generators	<p>My final question—this is something that is starting to show up in supply-and-demand curves in Western Australia, and I presume it is the same on the national network. Solar photovoltaics distributed installation is now on a scale where the afternoon peak that used to exist is flattening out or it is being pushed to a bit later in the afternoon. In some instances, it is actually turning into a dip. I am wondering whether anybody at the table, or anybody you can point us to, is doing any modelling across the country on at what point that starts making baseload generators completely non-viable—when that gouge falls to zero and you have to turn the baseload units off for a spell. Because that is on its way—it is probably closer than we think. What do your experts tell you about how far off that is?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Could we take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Yes, you can.</p>	Page 116 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000441
187	4.1: Energy	Moore	Battery storage costs	<p>Senator MOORE: I will through my questions and see if they are relevant. We will certainly put questions to ARENA and CSIRO as well on the basis of the answer that you gave to that one. Can you provide estimates or ranges of estimates of battery storage costs, including projections into the future? Is that the kind of question that can be directed to you?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes it is, but we will have to take it on notice.</p>	Page 88 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000363

188	4.1: Energy	Moore	Data on battery storage dispatch capacity	<p>Senator MOORE: I asked a previous question about estimates but regarding storage dispatch capacity, can the department provide estimates and projections?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Certainly we can look to finding out that information for you. The question feels a little bit vague to me so I am not sure whether you can—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: We can tighten that and put that on notice. In terms of the information regarding battery storage dispatch capacity, is that the kind of data in terms of estimates and projections that the department would have or could provide?</p> <p>Mr Archer: I think we could endeavour to find out that information. Batteries can come in different sizes of course—</p> <p>Senator MOORE: And a different focus for a different purpose.</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes, that is right. But we can endeavour to find out what is possible with the technology as it stands today.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If I could jump in and ask in terms of the cost of despatching too. If you could provide that response as well?</p> <p>Mr Archer: Yes.</p>	Page 88 and 89 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000365
189	4.1: Energy	Carr	Purchase of NSW and VIC shareholdings	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Has the department provided any advice on the purchase of the Victorian and New South Wales government shareholdings?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Senator, we will go through that in item 4.1.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: You can't answer that now?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes, we have.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: You have provided that advice?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p>	Page 46 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000479

				<p>Senator KIM CARR: When was that done? Dr de Brouwer: I will have to take that on notice, Senator. I do not know when.</p>		
190	4.1: Energy	Carr	Legal Structure of Snowy Hydro	<p>Mr Broad: We are a corporation. We are very different. When I ran GBEs I could have Crown protection. I have no Crown protection. We used to borrow under the triple-A rating of the governments you dealt with. We do not as we borrow under our own rating and we raise our own money. The company rises and falls on its own performance. Senator KIM CARR: What makes you different from Australia Post? Mr Broad: I am not sure about Australia Post. I cannot comment. I would just say that for us we are a corporation under corporations law. Most others are statutory corporations. Senator KIM CARR: Mr Broad, do you resent being here today? Mr Broad: Not at all. CHAIR: Senator Carr, that is really not an appropriate question. Senator Birmingham: Senator Carr, I am happy to take the questions on notice and ensure that the department provides you with the legal differentiation in terms of, at least, the structure. Senator KIM CARR: Thank you, Minister, I appreciate that. Senator Birmingham: A notable point of what differentiates Snowy Hydro from Australia Post is that they have multiple shareholders across multiple entities. They have a commitment to those shareholders which are established in the corporate structure versus Australia Post is a GBE which, of course, has only one shareholder being the Australian government.</p>	Page 49 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000480

191	4.1: Energy	Back	Electrical consumption	What is the total current national electrical consumption?	Written	SQ17-000576
192	4.1: Energy	Back	Energy demand in 2020	What is the expected energy demand in Australia in 2020? Is there an estimate?	Written	SQ17-000577
193	4.1: Energy	Back	Energy demand	Is nationwide energy demand increasing or declining year to year?	Written	SQ17-000578
194	4.1: Energy	Waters	Gas Market Reform Funding	How will the \$19.6m in Budget Paper 2, page 95 be spent? Will it be administered expenditure, or departmental? Is it intended to hand over any of that money to private gas pipeline companies, or gas companies generally?	Written	SQ17-000647
195	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Chisholm	Briefing to the Government	Senator CHISHOLM: The government on 15 March announced its intention to invest \$2 billion into an upgrade of storage capacity the Snowy Hydro scheme. Did you provide any briefing to the government regarding such an upgrade prior to 15 March? If so, when was this advice provided and what was its nature? Mr Frischknecht: We certainly were in close discussions with the government prior to that date and did provide briefing. The exact nature of it I will take on notice. But a number of documents were provided.	Page 19 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000442
196	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Chisholm	Joint feasibility study with Snowy Hydro	Senator CHISHOLM: ARENA has been tasked with conducting a joint feasibility study with Snowy Hydro into the Snowy Hydro expansion. When did you first become aware of ARENA's role in the feasibility study? Mr Frischknecht: ARENA makes its own investment decisions. The way this works, as with every other project, is that there is an approach from	Page 20 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000443

				<p>a proponents—in this case, Snowy Hydro—and then we make an assessment. We have an assessment process, we have an independent advisory panel and then we make a decision, which sometimes is within my delegation and sometimes goes up to the board. In this case, the Snowy Hydro proposal did go through our normal processes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Did the proposal come from Snowy Hydro to do the feasibility study?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, it did.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: When did that proposal come from Snowy Hydro?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: I will have to take it on notice as to the exact dates, but what I can tell you is that there were discussions going on for quite some time before March in our processes. That is the pertinent fact—how long we were in discussions—because the formal application date can sometimes happen either very early on in that process or quite late in that process. But we can provide you with all the dates.</p>		
197	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Date of discussions with Snowy Hydro	<p>Mr Frischknecht: Chair, sorry, Senator, I wonder if I could just clarify something that I said before the break in response to Senator Chisholm.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes, please do.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: It was in relation to the length of time we had had discussions with Snowy Hydro before the Prime Minister's announcement and I said it was on the order of months. It was actually on the order of one month; so, it happened in February. I just wanted to clear up the record.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So what month was it?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: It was during February that we had the discussions.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What date did you start that?</p>	Page 24 and 25 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000444

				Mr Frischknecht: I do not know the exact date, but we can provide you with that.		
198	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Xenophon	Independent reports	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Are you aware of any independent analysis or reports being carried out in relation to the project?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, as has been reported in the media, which alluded to some reports being conducted by the council.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: On notice, could you provide copies of those reports that ARENA may have, in the sense that they may not be publicly available in relation to that or at least take that request on notice in respect of those reports?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, I will take that on notice.</p>	Page 25 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000445
199	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Ludlam	Goldfields	<p>Senator LUDLAM: How do the Goldfields score in Western Australia, around Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and that kind of area?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: I do not know the answer to that. I am happy to take it on notice or happy to give your office a briefing on how to use the tool, so they can explore all the different sites themselves.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I am going to take you up on that offer rather than tying it up in committee now.</p>	Page 29 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000446
200	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Ludlam	Compare cost of electricity	Senator LUDLAM: I do not know whether this is within your remit or not, but we have been contacted by people in Perenjori. So, on the one hand, we have got this quite promising study. I wonder whether you might be able to take on notice—because I would not expect you to have these figures here—whether you can compare the estimated levelised cost of electricity that they modelled in 2014 with what the estimate for the similar kind of technology would be today. Is that	Page 29 and 30 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000447

				<p>something you would be able to undertake for us and see if there is any difference?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: We would certainly be happy to take it on notice. I do not know what we will be able to tell you, but—</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Whether it is predicted to be cheaper to build a similar plant now than it was back in 2014. I guess that is what I am getting at.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: We can look at the assumptions.</p> <p>Mr Kay: We can look at the assumptions. I suspect what is going to be more relevant is the numbers that we see when we go out for the request for information that we have talked about earlier.</p>		
201	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Ludlam	Cost of solar plus storage by 2025	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I understand the distinction you are making. Could you provide us, again on notice, with your best estimate as to the cost of solar plus storage by 2025, either PV plus battery or CST plus some kind of storage medium? Can you have a crack at that for us?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, we will have a crack at that. But bear in mind that taking PV plus battery is not quite the same as saying you have got PV or other variable renewables that are effectively balanced by the entire grid, which allows you to use many different mechanisms, which at different times different ones will be cheaper or more available—demand management, pumped hydro, batteries, interconnections to other regions. We will try to give you both numbers.</p>	Page 30 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000448
202	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Duniam	Flinders Island project	<p>Senator DUNIAM: What is the time frame on the Flinders Island project.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: I cannot tell you offhand—I can take that on notice—but it is getting close.</p> <p>Senator DUNIAM: If you could. That is great,</p>	Page 32 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000449

				thank you very much.		
203	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Rice	Electrical Vehicles	<p>Senator RICE: I want to find out more about the \$390,000 grant for encouraging the uptake of electrical vehicles that was announced yesterday by Minister Frydenberg. Who is the grant going to? What is it going to be used for?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: In this particular case—and this is part of our helping renewables find additional markets and changing the transport fleet to renewable energy, which is most easily achieved by electrification—the grant is going to the group called ClimateWorks who have done a lot of work on decarbonisation of the economy. This is a particular stream of work that they are doing around identifying barriers and sharing knowledge on those barriers on the uptake to EVs.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have you done work at the moment as to what the barriers are? How is that going to be further progressed by the work that ClimateWorks is doing?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: I can give you a high-level overview, but to give you more details we will take that on notice. There has been some work identifying what the barriers are. There has been some work put together with the coalition at the EV Council—some members have been involved in doing some of the work. One of the further phases is to try to educate various private-sector participants and government entities as to what some of the potential solutions to some those barriers are.</p>	Page 33 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000450
204	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Whish-Wilson	Funding at Tarraleah	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: If I could just go back to the project that you were talking about Mr Kay at Tarraleah. What was the magnitude of funding that is necessary for that project, or is that</p>	Page 33 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000451

	(ARENA)			<p>part of the feasibility?</p> <p>Mr Kay: This is an initial feasibility study. It is in the order of magnitude of \$1 million of which we are providing half.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: You do not have any idea of what the capital costs of the project might be? Has the Tasmanian government provided any—</p> <p>Mr Kay: That is what we are expecting to come out of the feasibility study. I think Hydro Tasmania has order of magnitude estimates that it is looking to refine.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you give us an idea of what they are?</p> <p>Mr Kay: I would have to take that on notice. I will also flag that it may be commercial-in-confidence at this stage.</p>		
205	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Date of funding approval	<p>Senator KIM CARR: I understand that the ARENA board has approved feasibility funding of \$500,000. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, that was within that CEO's delegation, my delegation.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Your delegation?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes. So that was approved.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What date was that approved?</p> <p>Mr Kay: We would have to take that precise date on notice but it was prior.</p>	Page 34 and 35 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000452
206	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Date of plans	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Yes, I have seen that too, but I am just wanting to know: were you shown any of the earlier proposals? Has ARENA seen any paperwork that went to the question of the earlier feasibility studies—project plans, any engineering works?</p> <p>Mr Kay: Not engineering works but high-level drawings of what plans—</p>	Page 37 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000454

				<p>Senator KIM CARR: High-level drawings?</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes, drawings and a description of what the—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What date were they?</p> <p>Mr Kay: From memory, I do not believe they were dated.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: You mean in terms of whether they were sixties era or fifties era?</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: When were they created? I would like to know when they were created.</p> <p>Mr Kay: I think that would be a better question—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Would you like to take that on notice, please?</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes.</p>		
207	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Advisory board	<p>Senator KIM CARR: I would like to know what paperwork was presented to you on 24 February, and between that time and when the advisory board met—what date did the advisory board meet?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Again, we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. And what was shown to the advisory board to warrant their recommendation to support the initial grant?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes.</p>	Page 37 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000455
208	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Contact with Snowy Hydro	<p>Senator KIM CARR: When did you report to the minister about the approach from the Snowy Hydro authority—obviously, after the 24th?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Yes, it would have been some time in the period between the 24th and the 15th.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: My point is: was the original contact from the Snowy Mountains authority or from the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: I do not recall, but as far as I know it was from the Snowy Mountains authority.</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes. I would not have been contacted—</p>	Page 38 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000456

				<p>Senator KIM CARR: Would you like to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes. I would not have been contacted by the minister's office before the meeting.</p>		
209	Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)	Carr	Feasibility study	<p>Senator KIM CARR: That is exactly right. I just want to be clear on what the feasibility study covered from your perspective?</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Could I get that on notice please: what you believe the details are of what the feasibility study covers? Because you have already taken on notice what paperwork was provided to you.</p> <p>Mr Kay: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Thank you.</p>	Page 38 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000457
210	Bureau of Meterology (BoM)	Chisholm	Mackay Weather Station	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I was specifically interested in Mackay because I have spent some time there recently. There were areas that were affected by flooding as a result of tropical Cyclone Debbie that previously had not been affected by flooding.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Sorry, can I just get you to clarify? What was affected by flooding?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Some of the towns outlying from Mackay that were affected by flooding that had not previously been. Has the decision around the station there had any impact on that?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I am not sure what places you are talking about that have been affected by flooding this time that had not been previously. What I can say is that the changes in the observational infrastructure that we have made in the Mackay region have not had any negative impact whatsoever on our capacity to issue outstanding forecasts to the local community. As I said before, the replacement of assets that we are doing here, I</p>	Page 45 and Page 49 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000458

				<p>think, actually improves the skill of our forecasting and provides improved information to those local communities. But I would be happy to take on notice if there is a particular set of communities that you feel are impacted negatively. I would be happy to look into it.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Yes. I had the opportunity to check the name of the town that I was talking about, which is Eton, west of Mackay.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: It is just up near the Pioneer Valley, yes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: There is a dam involved there as well.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Correct.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Kinchant Dam.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Kinchant is above Eton, yes. It is just to the southwest of Eton.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Is there anything you would be able to impart on what happened there with regard to this?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: It is probably best to take it offline. But my recollection of the period was that given the amount of rain in that part of the world the dam overtopped and there was some risk of that overtopping, in terms of communities downstream. But it is certainly not within the bureau's responsibilities, in terms of the management of Kinchant Dam. There was a very large amount of rainfall in that part of the catchment.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: The state has initiated an inquiry into it.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Correct.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Will you be participating in it?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I would have to double-check. I would be surprised if we would not make some form of submission or be asked to provide details</p>	
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				on the meteorological phenomena surrounding it. It is quite routine when these things happen.		
211	Bureau of Meterology (BoM)	Chisholm	Budget Savings from Decommissioned Weather Stations	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of the budget saving from these changes, is that something that has been identified?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Are you able to identify what that is in terms of the amount of money?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I do not have that with me, I do not think, but I could certainly take that on notice.</p>	Pages 45 and 46 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000465
212	Bureau of Meterology (BoM)	Williams	Northern NSW Floods	Has the Bureau reviewed its handling of the Lismore and Murwillumbah floods at the end of April and if so, has it identified any failings in its information delivery?	Written	SQ17-000347
213	Bureau of Meterology (BoM)	Williams	Northern NSW Floods – Warning System	What improvements if anything can be implemented to the warning system?	Written	SQ17-000348
214	Bureau of Meterology (BoM)	Williams	Radar in NSW	What radar facilities are available in the central and far west of NSW, and are there plans to increase the number of radar sits to give better coverage in the rural and remote areas?	Written	SQ17-000349
215	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Urquhart	Funding of the transmission	<p>Senator URQUHART: Has the CEFC invested projects which include transmission from a renewable project to the grid?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: Have we invested in projects which involve investment in transmission?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, which include transmission from a renewable project to the grid.</p>	Page 51 and 52 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000467

				<p>Ms Broadbent: I think we have.</p> <p>Mr Powell: We have certainly funded the portion, which is the connection to the grid. In terms of whether we have funded the transmission, we might need to take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That would be great.</p>		
216	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Chisholm	Work of CEFC	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I know at the start you gave a bit of an opening about what work you have done. I was wondering if you could elaborate maybe on megawatts of capacity installed, energy efficiency measures achieved, tonnes of emissions you have saved if you have got that level of detail on the work the CFC has been doing.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: I might have to take that question on notice.</p>	Page 53 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000468
217	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Waters	GreenSync	<p>Senator WATERS: Let us move on to GreenSync. Grid reform is obviously a huge area, and I note ARENA has done some really fascinating work there as well. Are you able to tell me a little bit more about the focus of GreenSync and what precisely they are looking at in grid reform?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: Who can do that?</p> <p>Mr Powell: I will partially answer the question as best I can. This is a software company. They are using smart software to optimise the use of energy resources in the electricity grid.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you tell me a bit more? Those are just buzz words.</p> <p>Mr Powell: It is based on smart controls. As a finance guy, it is beyond me to explain any better, so we might take that on notice.</p>	Page 59 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000469
218	Clean Energy	Waters	Projects	<p>Mr Powell: By way of clarification: the reef funding program is really aimed at a geographical location, and it is really the reef catchment area. All</p>	Page 60 and 61 Tuesday 23	SQ17-000470

	Finance Corporation (CEFC)			<p>projects within that space are categorised as being funded under the reef funding program. The chair has mentioned three solar projects—one at Ross River, one at the Whitsundays and one at Hamilton Solar Farm. Those three solar projects are \$144 million in size. There are also 210 small projects that we have funded through our aggregation facilities, again in this same space. Two of those specifically have the tie to water-quality benefits, because they are directly related to irrigation equipment. We like to look at projects and preference projects that have some water-quality benefit, but that is not a mandatory requirement.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you provide on notice for me the details of those projects where they are not only geographically in the reef catchment but are actually doing something about water quality as well as clean energy? It seemed like a bit of an accounting trick and a bit nominal to us when it was first announced—like you would just continue doing what you were doing but it gave the Prime Minister an announceable. It sounds like that is still the case, but I am very grateful that you are finding synergies, and I would appreciate some more details on that.</p>	May	
219	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Xenophon	Financing Carbon Capture and Storage	On what date did the Government (including any Ministerial advisors) raise the prospect with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation of a change in arrangements to allow the Corporation to finance Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects?	Written	SQ17-000552
220	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Xenophon	Location for Carbon Capture and Storage	What resources does the Corporation have at its disposal to assess whether the geology of a planned location is suitable for CCS?	Written	SQ17-000553

	(CEFC)					
221	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Urquhart	Carbon Capture and Storage	Is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) a technology that is currently commercially viable in Australia?	Written	SQ17-000581
222	Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)	Urquhart	Carbon Capture and Storage - Viability	In the absence of a carbon price or a similar mechanism, can CCS ever be commercially viable given it is a technology that directly captures and stored carbon emissions at considerable cost?	Written	SQ17-000588
223	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Back	Accreditation of Proposed wind farms	<p>Senator BACK: Chair, they make vitally important and interesting reading, I can assure you! The only other area I want to go to relates to question on notice No. 313 from 28 October last year. It related to regulation 3L and the 'fit and proper person' test. If you recall, I asked some questions about a gentleman by the name of Tim Flato, who, at the time, was representing National Power Projects and OneWind Australia. OneWind Australia has now been transferred to a Singaporean-owned entity, Nexif Energy, and its proposed windfarms are at Glen Innes, Lincoln Gap, Cattle Hill, and Walkaway 2 and 3. Again, Chair, I seek the concurrence of the committee to table ASIC extracts for two of those—Lincoln Gap Wind Farm and Glen Innes wind power—and for those to be handed to the witnesses, not that they need to be reading them. I have questions, and I am not sure who to direct them to.</p> <p>CHAIR: The committee is happy for you to table the documents.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Thank you very much; there they are. Can you tell me whether or not to date the Clean Energy Regulator has received applications</p>	Page 63 and 64 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000471

				<p>for accreditation from any of the aforementioned for proposed wind farms please?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: I will refer that question to Mr Williamson.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I do not believe we have received any applications as yet. Typically, the accreditation applications come in just before the point of first generation. Those names you read out, I do not recall those at all as coming in as yet, but I can certainly double-check that.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Thank you. Can you also take on notice to check whether you have had any communication or correspondence from any of those?</p>		
224	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Urquhart	Eligible Interest Holder Consent	<p>Senator URQUHART: Narrow it down to the native title, yes. The Senate inquiry into the carbon credits amendment bill noted that some projects that have received conditional consents under the existing framework have failed to seek consent from native title holders. That inquiry reported that the department commented that it understood that proponents of some projects with conditional declarations had not yet sought to comply with the consent requirements, as they expected that the CFI act would be amended. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: That could be true. You would have to ask our individual clients that, but it is important to note that an Emissions Reduction Fund project can be registered conditionally, as you said, and what that needs up- front is legal right. Consent can then be got after the initial project registration, and at that point it can become unconditional and accrue ACCUs. We would not be able to tell you individually where each of those participants is up to, in actually seeking their consent.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You can or you cannot?</p>	Page 65	SQ17-000562

				<p>Ms Swirepik: No, we would not be able to tell you exactly. We can tell you which ones have come in and have had their consents fulfilled.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you provide that information?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: Yes.</p>		
225	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Waters	Industrial Fugitive Projects	<p>Senator WATERS: Could you give me a bit more detail about the nature of the projects, because it has been 80 or 90 per cent land sector in previous auctions. Does that characterisation continue?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: The overall portfolio remains about the same as you would have recognised previous to auction 5, so there is still about 8½ million tonnes of the 11 million tonnes that was taken at auction 5 around vegetation methods, about two million in waste, and then some representation from savanna burning, agriculture, industrial fugitives and energy efficiency.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What were the industrial fugitives?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: I do not, literally, have all the projects with me. It was a single project, so I will probably have to get that for you on notice. It may have been coalmine waste gas.</p>	Page 66 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000474
226	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Ludlam	Renewable Energy Target – Western Australia	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Do you have the information to hand on how many credits Synergy is having to purchase from other states to meet the LRET?</p> <p>Ms Swirepik: I would not have that specific information to hand. My colleague Mr Williamson might have some idea of the generation that is Western Australia, but we probably do not have a specific figure for that company.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: Or can you point to where I can find that out on the internet? Is there any way of tracking leakage, if you will, of certificates from</p>	Page 67 Tuesday 23 May	SQ17-000476

				<p>one state to another? I am interested in industry development in a WA, and other senators are here to represent their own states, and the more of that stuff that is built in WA the happier I will be. But how do we track that kind of thing?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: It is very difficult to do that but I can give you some numbers in terms of the pipeline of projects Ms Swirepik talked about.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I would appreciate that but it is a little bit at a tangent. I am interested in the pipeline and I was going to get to that, but to what degree is WA either ahead or behind? If there were to be a per capita LRET target, are we punching above our weight or whatever the opposite of that is?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: On the last numbers that I saw overall, about average.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: So about 10 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: My figures are really different from that. Tell me how I get reliable figures on how WA is doing. I am actually of the understanding that we are falling behind.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I would be happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: The questions that I am putting to you are not based on any obligation in actuality, just on the raw numbers. I presume you understand where I am going with that. Do you have a rule of thumb for how many projects would need to be built, and by when, for WA to meet a notional, state based target?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: No, we would have to take that on notice.</p>		
227	Clean Energy	Back	Proposed wind farms	Referring to QON 313 (28 October 2016), regarding Regulation 3L and the fit and proper	Written	SQ17-000582

	Regulator (CER)			<p>person test, where I asked questions about a Mr Tim Flato, National Power and OneWind Australia. OneWind Australia has now been transferred to Singapore's Nexif Energy. OneWind's proposed wind farms being Glen Innes (Glen Innes Wind Power Pty Ltd), Lincoln Gap (Lincoln Gap Wind Farm Pty Ltd), Cattle Hill (Cattle Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd), and Walkaway 2 and 3 (Renewable Power Ventures Pty Ltd).</p> <p>1. Has the CER received applications for accreditation from any of the aforementioned proposed wind farms?</p> <p>2. Has the CER received any correspondence or had any communications with the aforementioned companies regarding potential applications for accreditation of the proposed wind farms?</p> <p>3. Does the CER refer to ASIC resources (current and historical company extracts for example) as part of the CER accreditation process?</p> <p>4. Will the CER please ensure that Regulation 3L is followed in relation to all four of OneWind's wind farm projects? Including but not limited to the following subsidiaries: Glen Innes (Glen Innes Wind Power Pty Ltd) Lincoln Gap (Lincoln Gap Wind Farm Pty Ltd) Cattle Hill (Cattle Hill Wind Farm Pty Ltd) Walkaway 2 and 3 (Renewable Power Ventures Pty Ltd)</p>		
228	Clean Energy Regulator	Back	Estimates renewable generation	Referring to QON 279, in which I estimated that the level of generation for 2017 will be 18,800 GWh and Mr Williamson estimated that the level of	Written	SQ17-000583

	(CER)			<p>generation would be 20,000 GWh;</p> <p>1. Which facility are you expecting the increase in hydro generation from?</p> <p>2. How has this increase in generation been achieved?</p> <p>3. Now that we are five months into the year, is there an updated estimate of expected generation for this year?</p>		
229	Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Back	Estimated shortfall by 2020	<p>Referring to the CER's table in QON 282; I tabled my own version of these estimated figures for your reference and discussion:</p> <p>1. In the year 2016 on the first line the shortfall figure is 2,284,027, yet the legislated target of 21,431 GWh minus the level of generation of 17,300 GWh is equal to a shortfall of 4,131,000 LGCs. Where does the 2,284,027 figure come from?</p> <p>2. In the year 2018, the available LGCs after surrender are 3,000,000, yet the legislated target for that year 28,637,000 minus your expected generation 23,700,000 is 4,937,000. The 2017 available LGCs after surrender of 7,400,000 minus 4,937,000 is 2,463,000 not 3,000,000 as you have estimated. Where does the 3,000,000 figure come from?</p> <p>3. I have calculated my own figures for the following years and inserted them into the table. You will note that the estimated shortfall by 2020 will result in over \$1 Billion (Shortfall charge \$65) being paid into federal revenue. The electrical</p>	Written	SQ17-000585

				consumer will pay \$1.59 Billion by my estimation. Does the CER have updated estimates for the expected levels of generation and/or any of the other figures in the table?		
230	Climate Change Authority (CCA)	Xenophon	Towards the Next generations: Delivering Affordable, Secure and Lower Emissions Power	<p>It is noted in its report ‘Towards the Next generations: Delivering Affordable, Secure and Lower Emissions Power’</p> <p>With this in mind, and in recognition of the Commonwealth Government’s decision to rule out consideration of an EIS, the Authority recommends that the Commonwealth Government consider implementing an alternative policy in the form of a Low Emissions Target (LET).</p> <p>Section 12 of the Climate Change Authority Act sets out principles the Authority must have regard for in performing its functions (conducting reviews, conducting research etc.). It seems in this review the Authority has given regard to a Government decision to rule out an EIS. How is this consideration consistent with the Act?</p> <p>Did the Chair (s 17 CCA Act) receive or act on any direction from Government in respect of the ruling out of an EIS in the context of this report?</p> <p>Did the Chief Scientist (s 17 CCA Act) receive or act on any direction from Government in respect of the ruling out of an EIS in the context of this report?</p> <p>Did any of the other 7 members (s 17 CCA Act) receive or act on any direction from Government in respect of the ruling out of an EIS in the context of this report?</p> <p>Did the CEO (s 41 CCA Act) receive or act on any</p>	Written	SQ17-000554

				<p>direction from Government in respect of the ruling out of an EIS in the context of this report?</p> <p>If the answer to 2 through 6 is 'no', why did the Authority choose on this occasion to have regard for a Government decision not to use an EIS?</p>		
231	Climate Change Authority (CCA)	Urquhart	Towards the Next Generation Report - Target	<p>In the recently released report; TOWARDS THE NEXT GENERATION: Delivering Affordable, Secure and Lower Emissions Power, the CCA (along with the AEMC) provide principles for the design of a Low Emission Target (LET), should the Government decide to pursue such a policy. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Be designed to progressively lower the emissions intensity of the NEM over time in line with Australia’s Paris obligations rather than create a strong, short term incentive for new generation that may be surplus to demand.” • Provide a clear signal for investment by providing a transparent pathway for lowering the emissions intensity of electricity generation with clear review points at intervals no less than five years to reduce uncertainty; and • Carefully consider its likely interaction with the wholesale electricity market and design operational rules with the aim of integrating the LET as seamlessly as possible with the NEM. <p>These principles seem to point to a design where the ‘target’ is one that refers to the emission intensity of the grid (or the electricity sold by individual retailers) rather than an absolute GW figure for ‘low emissions’ generation as with the current 2020 Renewable Emission Target. Is this correct? a. If so, why is targeting emission intensity superior to total GW of generation?</p> <p>These principles also seem to point to a LET that</p>	Written	SQ17-000586

				<p>allocates LET certificates to existing generators (which operate below a given threshold). Is this correct? a. What would be some of the advantages of such a design feature?</p> <p>What features of a LET would best ensure compliance with the final design principle (seamless integration with the NEM)?</p> <p>Would these include the creation of certificates by existing generators below a set emission intensity, the trading of certificates, and an emission intensity (rather than GW) target?</p> <p>Can a LET be designed in such a way as to effectively function as an Emission Intensity Scheme (EIS) that works through electricity retailers rather than the wholesale electricity market?</p> <p>Given the preference of the CCA (and AEMC as well as 29 other stakeholders cited in Appendix D to the Towards the Next Generation report) for an EIS, would the CCA recommend that any LET for Australia be designed in such a way as to maximise how closely its features and functioning resemble an EIS?</p> <p>Is a desire to ensure a LET as closely as possible resembles an EIS to some degree the thinking that guides the design principles for a LET presented in the TOWARDS THE NEXT GENERATION report?</p> <p>The TOWARDS THE NEXT GENERATION report notes a LET could result in lower price impacts than an EIS, if designed carefully.</p> <p>8. What factors (design or otherwise) would determine the relative price impact features of an EIS vs a LET?</p> <p>Would it be 'easy' to design a LET with lower price impacts than an EIS, or would it be a difficult task subject to considerable uncertainty?</p>		
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				Is it the case that the CCA believes that in general, an EIS has lower price impacts than a LET?		
232	Director of National Parks	Urquhart	Marine Protected Areas Budget	<p>Senator URQUHART: In this year's budget, in the Environment and Energy portfolio statement under the budgeted expenses for outcome 1, the expenditure laid out totals of only 28.3, but I understand the budget commitment was \$56.1 million. Where is the difference? Why is it spelled out like that?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: The government's commitment of \$56.1 million over four years is in the budget, it is just in various places in the portfolio budget statement. Some of that money is in the Director of National Parks's statement, some of it is in the Department of Environment and Energy's statement as administered funds, but the total is still \$56.1 million.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So the total is there, it is just spread over different areas.</p> <p>Ms Barnes: It is just spread out.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide us—maybe not now—details of where that is highlighted? Thanks.</p> <p>Ms Barnes: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I might just clarify too that that expenditure is spread over a number of years. It is not a single-year expenditure.</p> <p>Ms Barnes: Yes, over four years.</p>	Page 40 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000464
233	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Buffalo Farm Liability Insurance	<p>Senator SIEWERT: In terms of public liability insurance, what is your understanding of the public liability insurance responsibility of the buffalo farm at this stage?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: These are the issues I have been talking to Mr Lindner about.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I am not trying to put words</p>	Page 42 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000463

				<p>in your mouth, but does that mean you do not have an understanding of where the public liability insurance responsibility stands at the moment?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: As for Mr Lindner's public liability insurance, I need to talk to him about that and get confirmation about what that is.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Is it expected that he should have public liability insurance?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: I will need to talk to him and see if our liability would cover that area.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Under what circumstances would your liability cover that area?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: I will have to take that on notice. I do not know the answer to that.</p>		
234	Director of National Parks	Whish-Wilson	Norfolk Island National Park Budget	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I have a couple of quick questions on Operation Green Parrot on Norfolk Island. You could perhaps take this on notice as we do not have a lot of time. Would you be able to give me the amounts for the last few years and the forward estimates for the Norfolk Island National Park? Would you prefer to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: In particular, I wanted to know what amount of funding you are going to be able to deliver on the actions in the management plan and how that relates to the line item on the green parrot. You can take that on notice, too....</p>	Page 43 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000462
235	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Buffalo Farm safety oversight	<p>Is there any oversight of the safety of the operation at the area known as the Buffalo Farm? If so, what is it?</p>	Written	SQ17-000482
236	Director of National	Siewert	Buffalo Farm meat processing	<p>Is there any oversight of the circumstances in which buffaloes are butchered and the meat is processed?</p>	Written	SQ17-000483

	Parks			If so, what is it?		
237	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Letter to Northern Land Council	<p>Can the Director confirm that the ‘approval’ contained in the letter sent on 23/12/1999 from the Director of National Parks to the CEO of the Northern Land Council (appended to QoN 297 Management of Buffalo Farm) was never taken up?</p> <p>What is the meaning of the final sentence of that letter: “I would be interested in receiving your comments on these matters and holding discussions with the NLC with a view to formalising local arrangements for the management of the farm?”</p> <p>Do you interpret this sentence to suggest that there is further discussion and paperwork to be undertaken before any formal arrangement could be said to be in place?</p>	Written	SQ17-000484
238	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Buffalo Farm NLC management	How is it possible that Parks staff who have been ‘regularly liaising’ with Mr Lindner for 17 years did not notice that the Northern Land Council has nothing to do with the operation?	Written	SQ17-000561
239	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Buffalo Farm ongoing management	Given the so-called ‘buffalo farm’ site has been in regulatory limbo for almost two decades, please provide an update on what the Director of National Parks will do now to ensure that the area is a responsible and safe operation compliant with the EPBC Act regulations.	Written	SQ17-000485
240	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Public liability insurance at Buffalo Farm	Tourists are invited to the operation by Animal Tracks to visit Mr Lindner and his buffalo shooting operation. One has already been seriously injured. Please provide specific information regarding public liability insurance – i.e. does adequate public liability insurance cover exist for the area known as	Written	SQ17-000486

				the Buffalo Farm?		
241	Director of National Parks	Urquhart	Management plan finalisation - CMRs	When will all of the Management plans for the CMRs (which were first identified by the Labor Government in 2013) be finalised?	Written	SQ17-000563
242	Director of National Parks	Urquhart	Budget for Commonwealth Marine Reserves	\$56.1 M over 4 years seems insufficient to prepare management plans, establish management arrangements and fund fisheries adjustment – is this realistic? – can the department provide a budget on the expenditure of this money? If the plans have not been finalised, how can the budget be calculated? What assumptions were made? What is the level of fisheries displacement?	Written	SQ17-000564
243	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Waters	Submission to the 2017 Climate Policy Review	Senator WATERS: Has GBRMPA been asked to contribute, and have you contributed, to the 2017 climate policy review that the government has long spruiked? Dr Reichelt: We are sending in a submission on that. Senator WATERS: Has that happened yet? Dr Reichelt: Yes, it has. Senator WATERS: Is that publicly available? Are you able to provide us with a copy of that? Dr de Brouwer: I think we are just all receiving them, and it depends on whether people have asked for their submissions to be confidential. But we can come back maybe in the climate change discussion around the exact number. Senator WATERS: Did you ask for it to be confidential? Dr Reichelt: No, we send it to the review team. I am just not sure of what conditions they have around it. We could check that.	Page 29 Monday 22 May	SQ17-000461
244	Great	Whish-	Sharks – Drum	Senator WHISH-WILSON: Last question then,	Page 38	SQ17-000453

	<p>Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</p>	<p>Wilson</p>	<p>Lines</p>	<p>just to Mr Elliot: there was no statistical or scientific study that you used as an evidentiary basis for those permits? Mr Elliot: We referred to the scientific literature that does exist, and we certainly had the statistical analysis of the catch rates of the program, the historical shark statistics that predated the program. It is also worth noting that this program is limited to those beaches where there is significant human use, and it ends up being about 70.5 kilometres of beach across the entire 2,300 kilometres of the Great Barrier Reef coastline. I would have to take that question on notice— Senator WHISH-WILSON: On notice, yes. Could you also confirm that in 2016 alone, 531 sharks, including endangered species such as the great white and the grey nurse, were killed, according to the data from the Queensland government; and, since the program began, over 50,000 dolphins, dugongs, marine turtles, rays and whales have also been killed by these lethal technologies. Mr Elliot: There is one thing I would point out. First of all, that assessment report is on our website. So the assessment report that underpinned our initial decision is available on the website, with all the references to the scientific studies that we used et cetera. To answer your question, the statistics you are quoting are, I believe, for the entire program across all of Queensland. There have been no great white sharks caught in the marine park, and I believe the last time a grey nurse shark was caught was over a decade ago—the same for mortality. One of figures I do have to mind is that, over a 10-year period in which there were, from memory, 25 turtles caught on drum lines, 24 were released successfully, alive. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay—</p>	<p>Monday 22 May</p>	
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				<p>CHAIR: You did say this was on notice.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could take it on notice, Mr Elliot. You have not caught the target species; you have just said that. The great whites—</p> <p>Mr Elliot: You mentioned them specifically just then.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes, and grey nurses. But, also, how many bull sharks and tiger sharks have you caught, and have there been any recorded fatalities of either of those two species? That would be useful to know.</p> <p>Mr Elliot: That, I would have to take on notice. They will be in the assessment report, too.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. Thank you.</p>		
245	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Urquhart	Great Barrier Summit	Can the Department /Authority provide the results and findings of the recent Great Barrier Reef summit in Townsville on actions that could be taken by GBRMPA to improve resilience of the Reef in the face of climate change pressure.	Written	SQ17-000566
246	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Urquhart	Submission to the Climate Policy Review	Can the Department /Authority provide a copy of the Authority's submission to the 2017 Government Climate Policy Review?	Written	SQ17-000567
247	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Waters	Target temperature rise from global warming	What is GBRMPA's view on the target temperature rise from global warming which Australia should be aiming for? Do you support a target of 1.2 degrees?	Written	SQ17-000648