

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

Question No: 132
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
Topic: VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES - EPBC ACT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Can the Department provide the following information with respect to delegation of approvals under the EPBC Act more generally:

- a. Any planned or intended staff redundancies
- b. How many staff will be seconded to state Departments
- c. Timeframes for redundancies and secondments

Answer:

Through the Department's 2014 voluntary redundancy rounds 27 staff, have left or are due to leave the Environment Assessment and Compliance Division by December 2014.

It is noted that the Regulatory Reform Taskforce was set up in October 2013 to progress the accreditation of state and territory assessment and approval processes under the One-Stop Shop reforms. The taskforce sits within the Environment Assessment and Compliance Division.

The final number of staff to be 'embedded' to provide transitional support to States and Territories is dependent on each jurisdictions needs and the timing of final bilateral negotiations.

The timing for placement of embedded officers will be negotiated directly with each State and Territory.