

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

Question No: 150
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 3
Programme: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: 20 YEAR AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC REVIEW
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

Can you outline the practical challenges faced by the AAD in achieving the goals set by the Strategic Vision - for example, staff expertise, infrastructure, reduced funding for site visits?

Answer:

The 35 recommendations in Dr Press' report on a 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan cover a range of key issues, including:

- Australia's national interests in Antarctica;
- supporting and leading national and international Antarctic science;
- building economic benefits for Tasmania as an Antarctic Gateway city;
- Australia's future Antarctic station operations, transport and deep field traverse; capabilities and support for large field-based research campaigns; and
- effective administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory.

The Government is currently considering the report in detail and will prepare a response over coming months. Some recommendations could be progressed by the Department of the Environment within existing resources. Other recommendations present more significant challenges that involve other agencies and longer-term decisions. The Australian Antarctic Division will be in a position to consider the resource implications of implementing those aspects of the Government's strategic vision for which it has responsibility when the Government formally responds to the report.