

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

Question No: 168
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Water
Topic: MONITOR AND ASSESS EXPENDITURE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

Information obtained in FOI 050514 obtained by my constituent contains information relating to funding provided to other agencies for agreed water reform activity.

Agency	Program	Funding
Department of Agriculture	SA River Murray Sustainability Program	\$120m
Department of Infrastructure & Regional Australia	SA River Murray Sustainability Program	\$25m
Department of Infrastructure & Regional Australia	Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program	\$100m
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	SA Riverland Floodplains (SA Regulators)	\$155m
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Hume Dam Remedial Works and Basin Plan Activities	\$69m
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Driving Reform in the Basin	\$245.2m
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Driving Reform in the Basin	\$72.3m
National Water Commission	Driving Reform in the Basin	\$13.9m
National Water Commission	Raising National Water Standards	\$214.4m
National Water Commission	Northern Australia Futures Assessment and Taskforce	\$13m
Department of Infrastructure & Regional Australia	Northern Australia Futures Assessment	\$0.8m
Bureau of Meteorology	Improving Water Information	\$430.5m

TOTAL		\$1,459 m
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How does your department monitor, assess and audit these expenditures?

a. How does it ensure taxpayers get value for money?

Answer:

As stated in the FOI 050514 response, this funding is committed to water reform programmes of agencies other than this Department. Each agency has its own value for money threshold and outcomes from programmes. Information on the outcomes of this funding is available through the annual reports and Portfolio Budget Statements of each recipient agency.

These are reflective of budget allocations over several years by various governments, not grants of this Department. As such, monitoring, assessment and auditing are a matter for these agencies, as well as standard grant processes such as those of the Australian National Audit Office.