

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

**Question No:** 235  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division  
**Topic:** CLOUD SERVICES AND STORAGE - SECURITY  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

What security arrangements are in place to protect cloud based services and storage?

- a. Have any security analysts been employed / contracted to advise on the implementation and upkeep of these security arrangements?
- b. What has been the cost of security for the cloud? Please provide a breakdown.

**Answer:**

The Department developed Cloud Guidelines in 2013 to highlight the key risks and security considerations for procuring a cloud service.

In line with Whole of Government policies, the Department requires a Threat and Risk Assessment (TRA) to be completed and reviewed by the Information Technology Security Adviser (ITSA) and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and approved by the Secretary (or Delegate) for all new cloud services.

- a) Yes. TRAs are performed by an external provider. All TRAs are reviewed and approved by ITSA and CISO. When implementing a cloud service already utilised by other Commonwealth agencies with a similar risk profile, the Department has adopted the TRAs of those agencies.
- b) The Department has commissioned 5 TRAs at a cost of approximately \$12,000 per solution depending on the level of detail required.