

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

Question No: 333
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division
Topic: STAFFING
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In May when we discussed the implications to staffing levels of the Government's reduction in the Department's budget, you said you were unable to advise until the new Departmental structure was in place, and business planning for 2014-15 was completed.

1. Is that process now complete?
2. Can you confirm that the total staffing reduction for the Department for FY 14-15 financial year is still expected to be 140? If not, please provide the up to date number.
3. Which areas of the Department are these job cuts coming from? What programs / Departmental responsibilities will be affected? Please be as specific as possible.
4. Which areas suffered reduced staffing, following the Minister's commitment to increase EPBC compliance staffing to 30 staff, which was announced pre budget in response to Gladstone Bund Wall Review Report.
5. Is there a business plan for FYs beyond 14-15?
6. If so, please provide details of total staffing reductions for the Department for all FYs possible.

Answer:

1. Business planning for 2014-15 is now complete and an interim departmental structure was put in place on 1 July 2014. Further restructuring to reflect ongoing functional changes and reduced staffing numbers, including at SES levels, will see a final departmental structure in place on 1 July 2015.
2. The planned staffing reduction for 2014-15 remains at 140.
3. Staffing reductions occur across all areas of the Department. The effect of these reductions is reviewed regularly by the Department to ensure the most efficient and effective use is made of resources to meet the Department's objectives. Redistribution of resources occurs from time to time to meet changing priorities.
4. As staffing reductions occur across all areas of the Department and resources are redistributed to meet changing priorities, no particular areas are affected.
5. The Department's Strategic Plan covers the period 2014-2018. It provides a high-level overview of the Department's strategic direction and key areas of focus and guides the Department's business activities. In addition, divisions prepare annual business plans which set out how they will contribute to departmental outcomes and demonstrate direct strategic alignment with the objectives and priorities identified in the Strategic Plan and Portfolio Budget Statements. The purpose of the Portfolio Budget Statements is to inform

Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to Government outcomes by agencies within the portfolio.

6. Estimated staff affordability remains as advised in May 2014:

Financial year	Total Departmental Budget \$M	Affordable ASL	Notional Reduction Required	Cumulative % Reduction	Cumulative ASL Reduction
2013-14	\$460	2620	290*	-11%	290
2014-15	\$421	2328	140	-16%	430
2015-16	\$404	2184	160	-23%	590
2016-17	\$378	2021	80	-26%	670
2017-18	\$361	1946	0	-26%	670