

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

Question No: 348
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy Analysis and Implementation
Topic: "ONE IN, ONE OUT" REGULATORY BURDEN POLICY
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

In May estimates 2014 the Department provided initial responses on the Government's "regulatory offsets" policy, the idea that if the Department or Government wishes to propose a new regulatory burden, you need to offset this by removing regulatory burden.

1. Is this an issue which you need to address as part of each new policy proposal?
2. How is an "offset" found – is it anywhere across the economy or society, or there "like for like" – ie if you plan to increase regulation of one industry, do you need to find the offset within that same industry?
3. Can you confirm that this is a new requirement, introduced by the current Government? Are there any precedents of this being in place under previous governments?

Answer:

- 1 & 2 The *Regulatory Burden Management Framework Guidance Note* on the Office of Best Practice Regulation website (http://www.dpmc.gov.au/deregulation/obpr/reporting-publications/publications/guidance/docs/005_Regulatory_Burden_Measurement_Framework.pdf) sets out the Government's offset requirements. Refer to the *cost offsets* section on page 6.
3. Yes, this is a new requirement which was not in place under previous governments.