

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

Question No: 406
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: National Water Commission
Topic: ADVISORY ROLE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

The National Water Commission has an advisory role in relation to the application by the states of the risk assignment framework under sub-section 74A(4) of the Water Act. Can you please advise what these functions are for, whether they will be ceased and what the reasoning is for their cessation?

Answer:

Under this section of the Water Act the Minister may ask the National Water Commission for advice in regard to whether a state has applied the risk assignment framework provided for in the National Water Initiative. The provision is in the context of the allocation of risks in relation to reductions in water availability, and the possibility of payments under certain circumstances to holders of water access entitlements whose allocations have been reduced. The Minister has not requested advice under the section to date. The Minister would be able to seek advice on risk assignment matters from the Department of the Environment or Murray Darling Basin Authority in the ordinary course of events.