

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 136  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Assessments  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 01 November 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

How many projects has the department assessed this financial year (2015/16)?  
Is that an increase or decrease on previous years? What is the trend?

**Answer:**

	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Number of projects referred	439	304	225	209
Number of projects requiring assessment and approval ('Controlled Action' decision)	118	105	82	72

In the last financial year (2015/16), 209 projects were referred to the department. Of these, 72 required assessment and were approved as a 'Controlled Action'.

The number of projects referred has decreased over the past four years with a consequent decrease in approval decisions.

The ratio of referred projects to approvals has remained relatively stable over this time period.