

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2015-16
3 and 4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Enterprise Agreement

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2015, page 107)

QUESTION No.: BI-23

Senator KETTER: I have a series of questions in relation to whether or not you are involved in enterprise bargaining—

Dr Pigram: We are.

Senator KETTER: What is the status of the negotiations at the present time?

Dr Pigram: We have had a number of meetings with staff and with the unions through our workplace relations committee. We are yet to make an offer to staff. We are still negotiating with the Australian Public Service Commission to get approval for an offer. So we have yet to place an offer in front of staff.

Senator KETTER: Have staff undertaken protected industrial action?

Dr Pigram: They have. Yes.

Senator KETTER: What sort of action and how has it affected the organisation?

Dr Pigram: We were notified of an intent for action to be taken in relation to not answering emails in certain areas and taking time off and hours not working. Let me take this on notice and I will provide you with the details, but we understand that one individual has taken some action within the prescribed areas that were identified and formally approved by the Fair Work Commission.

ANSWER

Geoscience Australia has observed staff participation in six approved industrial actions as of 3 June 2015, involving 10 individual employees:

1. 10 April 2015: One library employee was involved in a ban on the provision of reference materials to internal clients for a 24 hour period, resulting in a one day delay for one request.
2. 10 April 2015: One library employee was involved in a ban on the provision of maps and charts to internal clients for a 24 hour period, resulting in a one day delay for one request.
3. 20 April 2015: One employee was involved in a ban on taking allocated breaks by altering their break times.
4. 20 April 2015: One employee reported a stoppage of work for six minutes.
5. 23 April 2015: Two employees reported a stoppage of work for two hours.
6. 20 May 2015: Ten employees were reported as stopping work for one hour.

These actions have resulted in negligible impact on Geoscience Australia's business.