

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 01

**Division/Agency:** Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

**Topic:** Red tape reduction

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
  - a. What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. What is the estimated total salary cost of the officers assigned to the unit?
7. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
8. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
9. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

**Answer:**

1. The deregulation unit was established in November 2013 to coordinate the agriculture portfolio's implementation of the government's deregulation agenda. The unit is now part of the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). The unit is supported by officers from the Productivity section of ABARES, providing technical support, including undertaking the regulation stocktake and costings. The Department's Legislation & Regulatory Reform Committee has governance oversight of the unit, supported by the Deregulation Working Group that meets monthly.

**Question:** 01 (continued)

a. As at 8 December 2014, the portfolio has reported \$24.5 million in regulatory savings across the portfolio.

2. The average staffing for November 2014 YTD was 7.1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE), led by a Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1 officer with responsibilities broader than the deregulation agenda. The end of year forecast average is eight FTE. Current staff members at the end of November 2014 are at the following levels:

SES 1—0.8 FTE

EL2—2.0 FTE

EL1—1.0 FTE

APS6—1.7 FTE

APS4 – 0.5 FTE

3. The unit has been established within current resources with all staff redeployed from other roles.

4. Internal transfer.

5. The direct cost in 2014-15 is forecast at \$1.34 million.

6. The forecast total salary cost is \$1.1 million.

7. Yes.

8.

Level	Security classification	Date issued
SES1	Negative Vetting1	12 March 2006
EL2	Baseline Vetting	16 October 2009
EL2	Negative Vetting 1	7 December 2010
EL1	Baseline Vetting	16 March 2011
APS6	Negative Vetting 1	7 February 2012
APS6	Negative Vetting 1	5 May 2006
APS4	Baseline Vetting	16 July 2014

9. Deregulation Unit.