

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

Program: Division or Agency:	2.3: SPAD	Question No:	047
Topic:	2011 State of the environment report - versions		
Proof Hansard Page and Date	104		
or Written Question:	(13/2/12)		

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: ...Can you provide an estimate of how many versions the State of the environment report went through?

Dr Grimes: We may well have to take that on notice. I will to see if any officers here have that information to hand. We would have to take that on notice. I suspect it may be difficult for us to answer because segments of the report tend to be done as individual chapters before the report itself gets brought together.

Senator WATERS: Sure. If you need to take that on a chapter-by-chapter basis, that would be fine, too.

Dr Grimes: We can take that on notice and see what information we may be able to provide to you.

Senator WATERS: I am interested also in how many of those versions incorporated feedback or comments from the minister's office?

Dr Grimes: We will be able to take that on notice and see if there is anything we can provide you at all.

Answer:

Early versions of the report

There were multiple authors working on different chapters during the process of producing the National State of the Environment report for 2011. The drafting of each chapter was a collaborative and iterative process involving many consultations and contributions. Independent committee members were responsible for leading the drafting process for one or more chapters.

There were three key versions of each of the theme chapters. These versions relate to three major stages in the production process prior to compiling the final report.

- Versions submitted to independent peer review (May to July 2011). The process of peer review and the results are publicly available. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/supplementary/pubs/soe2011-supplementary-peer-review-of-the-australia-state-of-the-environment-2011-report.pdf>.
- Versions, post peer review, circulated for final accuracy and fact checking by contributors (July to August 2011).
- Versions submitted to copyediting/proofreading/design (August to November 2011).

Individual chapters

The three stages above apply to ten chapters: Drivers, Atmosphere, Inland water, Land, Marine environment, Antarctic environment, Biodiversity, Heritage, Built Environment, and Coasts. The remaining chapters – Summary, Approaches and Future Reporting - did not undergo external peer review or fact checking by external data providers.

Engagement with the Minister's Office on drafts

There were no comments or feedback from the Minister or Minister's Office on any drafts.

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Program: Division or Agency:	2.3: SPAD	Question No:	048
Topic:	2011 State of the environment report – executive summary		
Proof Hansard Page and Date	104		
or Written Question:	(13/2/12)		

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Can you tell me what point the executive summary gets drafted and by whom?

Dr Grimes: I personally cannot tell you the point at which it was drafted, but the officers here may be able to assist you.

Ms Wiley-Smith: We will have to take that on notice. As you are aware, this is an independent report, so we will have actually have to liaise with the chapter authors to find out that type of information. We are happy to take it on notice.

Answer:

The recently released report titled Australia State of the Environment 2011 contains a chapter called 'Summary'.

The 'Summary' was authored by the independent State of Environment 2011 Committee. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/pubs/committee-2011.pdf> for composition of the committee.

An introduction to the Summary chapter was developed by the chairman of the committee and circulated to other authors, in April 2011, for input on each specific reporting theme. During the period April-July, authors collaborated on the draft Summary chapter while they were also developing the theme chapters.

Once the theme chapters of the report were finalised in October, the Summary chapter was updated accordingly and then went through final copy-editing, proof-reading, design and clearances by authors in the lead up to finalising the report for printing.

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Program: Division or Agency:	2.3: SPAD	Question No:	049
Topic:	2011 State of the environment report – drafting process		
Proof Hansard Page and Date	104		
or Written Question:	(13/2/12)		

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: ...Are you able to provide original drafts of the State of the environment report before any comments or alterations were made in the course of those versions?

Dr Grimes: The best we can do at this stage is taken that on notice.

Answer:

The independent State of the Environment Committee had responsibility for drafting the content of the report.

Authors for each chapter submitted their drafts to an external peer review. A summary of the peer review process is publicly available. It includes detail about reviewers' comments and also the authors' responses to that feedback. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/supplementary/pubs/soe2011-supplementary-peer-review-of-the-australia-state-of-the-environment-2011-report.pdf>.

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Program: Division or Agency: 2.3: SPAD **Question No:** 050
Topic: Renewable Energy Atlas
Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator Fisher asked:

1. Please provide copies of correspondence between either the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities or the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and regarding the Renewable Energy atlas.
2. Does WindLab provide data on wind speed and direction free of charge?
3. How many complaints has the department received about the removal of the Atlas?

Answer:

1. There was no formal correspondence between the above mentioned departments on the Renewable Energy Atlas. However, six emails were exchanged between the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency regarding the Atlas.
2. At the time of the development and operation of the Renewable Energy Atlas of Australia, WindLab Systems P/L did not provide data free of charge.
3. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities has not received any formal complaints about the removal of the Atlas.

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Program: Division or Agency: 2.3: SPAD **Question No:** 051
Topic: Suburban Jobs Program – Victoria
Proof Hansard Page and Date Written
or Written Question:

Senator McKenzie asked:

1. What funding from the \$100m Suburban Jobs program announced at the last budget has been allocated to Victorian cities?
2. What sort of projects have been funded so far?
3. What is the process for accessing the funding?

Answer:

1. Grant funding under the (now) \$45 million Suburban Jobs program will be allocated to a small number of large, integrated projects following a competitive grant round.
2. Projects have not yet been funded as the successful applications for the Suburban Jobs Program have not yet been announced.
3. Applications closed on 17 February 2012. Applications received will be assessed against the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in the Suburban Jobs Program Guidelines (available online at www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/suburbanjobs). The announcement of successful applications is expected to occur in the first half of 2012.