

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

**Question No:** 150  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Corporate  
**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division  
**Topic:** Staff reductions  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 7 March 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Seselja asked:**

What are your current and forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies?

- a) How many of these reductions and redundancies relate to efficiency dividends applied over the last three years?
- b) How many of these reductions and redundancies relate to decisions made in the 2013 Budget, or earlier, to cease or terminate programs?
- c) If redundancies have been offered, when was the decision made to offer these redundancies?

**Answer:**

**Department of the Environment:**

In order to ensure alignment of the role and responsibilities of the Department with government priorities and the reductions in available funding, the Department has undertaken an internal strategic review. This review has identified an overall reduction in staffing levels over the forward estimates period. The Department has instigated a voluntary redundancy program and is targeting 250 redundancies. Staffing levels beyond this current redundancy program will be considered in the context of the outcomes of the 2014-15 Budget.

- a) The Department manages its budget holistically and in accordance with the government's priorities, as such any staffing reductions are not allocated to individual budget measures.
- b) As stated above the Department does not directly attribute reductions in staffing levels to specific budget measures. Funding reductions are comprised of the sum of budget and savings measures from all previous Budget decisions. The funding profile of the Department at the time of the 2013-14 Budget can be accessed in the Portfolio Budget Statement at the following link:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/portfolio-budget-statements-2013-14-0>

- c) The current round of redundancies was announced to staff on Monday 7 April 2014 and the formal expression of interest process was opened on Tuesday 15 April 2014.

**Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority)**

As at 8 April 2014, the Authority has identified one staff position for reduction.

- a) Nil
- b) Nil
- c) 12 March 2014

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA):**

GBRMPA is currently running an expression of interest (EOI) process for a voluntary redundancies program. No decision has been made as to the number of redundancies to be offered. Decisions on future staffing levels will be dependent on budget allocations.

Nil

Nil

One redundancy has been offered during the period 7 September 2013 to 8 April 2014. This redundancy was offered due to a minor restructure within GBRMPA. This redundancy was offered outside the above mentioned EOI process.

**Climate Change Authority**

The Government has announced its intention to repeal the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011* (CCA Act). Until the repeal of the CCA Act, the Climate Change Authority will continue to conduct operations as per its statutory obligations.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable

**Clean Energy Regulator (CER):**

The CER has no current or forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable

**Bureau of Meteorology (BOM):**

The BOM has no current or forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable

**Director National Parks (DNP):**

The DNP may be required to reduce or realign staff to manage within its budget allocation and in line with organisational priorities.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) The decision to offer redundancies took place in the weeks leading up to the first offer made on 2 April 2013. Five DNP staff accepted voluntary redundancies in 2013.

**Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT):**

The SHFT has no current or forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies.

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable

**National Water Commission (NWC):**

The NWC has no current or forward plans for staff reductions, including redundancies

- a) Not applicable
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable