

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

Question No: 195
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy and Communications Division
Topic: Terminology 'Climate Change'
Hansard Page: 47
Question Date: 24 February 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: Have the words 'climate change' been removed from the department's website?

Dr de Brouwer: I would be very surprised, Senator. Not that I am aware.

Senator WATERS: We had some reports to that effect. I have had a look. I can find one reference to climate change on the front page of the website that then takes you to an entirely separate website. I am interested in whether to your knowledge any departmental employees have been told to refrain from using the term 'climate change'.

Dr de Brouwer: It is one of the outcome responsibilities of the minister and the department. I am not aware of that, and I will take it on notice.

Senator WATERS: Thank you. Take on notice whether there has been any instruction, directive, suggestion or what have you to change the terminology used.

Dr de Brouwer: Yes, Senator. I would be very surprised.

Answer:

There has been no instruction, directive or suggestion to either refrain from or change the use of the term 'climate change'. The term 'climate change' has not been removed from the Department's website and it continues to be listed under the heading of 'Topics' on the Department of the Environment's website (<http://www.environment.gov.au/aggregation/topics>).

Following Machinery of Government changes late last year, content from the previous Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's website (<http://www.climatechange.gov.au>) is being transferred to the Department of the Environment's website. This requires the development of new information architecture and the migration of content. This work is progressing.