

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
 Answers to questions on notice  
**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**  
 Budget Estimates, May 2013

**Program: Agency:** BOM **Question 123**  
**No:**  
**Topic:** Regional staff changes  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** 13  
**or Written Question:** (28/05/13)

**Senator MacDonald asked:**

Senator IAN MACDONALD: It certainly seems to me, as a long observer of the bureau's operations, that the number of people, particularly in rural and regional Australia, continues to fall and there continues to be a reallocation to Melbourne. I see you did, in response to a question I asked from last estimates, give me some details of staff changes. And I will ask, on notice, for those staff changes through all of your operations around Australia again. As Dr Smith says, if this technology is good enough for Tennant Creek, it is a concern to me that it is going to be the future of the BOM.

**Answer:**

Location	Number of staff as at 30 April 2012	Number of staff as at 30 April 2013
Canberra	82	90
Cobar	1	1
Coffs Harbour	2	2
Lord Howe Island	2	2
Moree	1	1
Narrabri	1	1
Norfolk Island	3	3
Sydney	139	131
Wagga Wagga	3	3
Williamtown	7	7
<b>NSW/ACT Region Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>241</b>
Alice Springs	4	4
Darwin	73	72
Gove/Nhulunbuy	5	4
Tennant Creek	1	
Tindal/Katherine	1	1
<b>Northern Territory Region Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>81</b>
Amberley	2	2
Brisbane	114	107
Cairns	13	11
Charleville	2	2

Longreach	2	2
Mackay	3	3
Mount Isa	1	1
Oakey	2	2
Rockhampton	6	5
Townsville	11	11
Weipa	1	1
Willis Island	5	4
<b>Queensland Region Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>151</b>
Adelaide	75	73
Ceduna	1	1
Giles	4	3
Mt Gambier	2	2
Woomera	1	1
<b>South Australia Region Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>
Antarctica/Macq	6	10
Cape Grim/Smith	5	5
Hobart	62	55
Launceston	1	1
<b>Tasmania Region Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>
East Sale	3	3
Melbourne - HO	927	917
Melbourne - Vic	73	73
Mildura	1	1
<b>Victoria Region Total</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>994</b>
Albany	5	4
Broome	7	7
Carnarvon	2	2
Cocos Island	1	1
Esperance	4	4
Eucla		
Geraldton	4	4
Halls Creek	2	2
Kalgoorlie	1	1
Learmonth/Exmou	4	3
Meekatharra	1	1
Pearce	3	2
Perth	105	100
Port Hedland	1	1
<b>Western Australia Region Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>1750</b>

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<b>Program: Agency:</b>	BOM	<b>Question No:</b>	124
<b>Topic:</b>	Weather prediction and the ADF		
<b>Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question:</b>	20		
	28/05/13		

**Senator Cameron asked:**

“... can you take on notice and provide non-classified information in terms of engagement that you have with the Defence Force on climate change, because I would like to be confident that the Defence Force is dealing with this issue”.

Dr Vertessy: Yes. Certainly we would be happy to do that.

**Answer:**

The Bureau of Meteorology provides the Department of Defence (Defence), in particular the Australian Defence Force, with a range of meteorological and oceanographic services, including climate information.

These services are provided under the Strategic Partnering Agreement (Agreement) of 24 August 2011. The Director of Meteorology and the Vice Chief of the Defence Force have overall responsibility for maintaining this partnership.

The Bureau notes the following areas of engagement under the Agreement:

- Vice Chief of Defence Force Group and Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) staff have utilised data and modelling tools provided by the Bureau and the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, a joint venture between the Bureau and CSIRO, in the *Global Change and Strategic Military Geography: Preparedness Impacts Study*.
- Vice Chief of Defence Force Group and DSTO staff have attended Bureau climate briefings.
- The Director of Meteorology was invited to participate in a Vice Chief of Defence Force Group Global Change and Energy Sustainability Forum (as a speaker and participant), in November 2012, but was unable to attend.

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<b>Program: Agency:</b>	BOM	<b>Question No:</b>	125
<b>Topic:</b>	POAMA model		
<b>Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question:</b>	21 (28/05/13)		

**Senator Cameron asked:**

I am looking at your website now with POAMA. Not being an expert in this area, could I ask you to take on notice and provide us with information as to what this model is forecasting in terms of the key factors that government would need to be dealing with, both in Australia and in the Pacific islands?

**Answer:**

The Bureau of Meteorology's Predictive Ocean Atmosphere Model for Australia (POAMA) is a dynamic climate model that provides seasonal forecasts for all atmospheric quantities including temperature, humidity and winds, and a similar set of ocean quantities for the whole globe.

POAMA provides the following products:

- El Nino/La Nina Forecast;
- Seasonal (three month) climate outlook for rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures;
- Forecasts of sea surface temperatures in the Great Barrier Reef, as a warning of potential bleaching;
- Seasonal forecasts for the Pacific Island countries.

The current winter outlook (July, August and September) from the new seasonal outlook indicates a wetter than normal winter is likely across large parts of eastern and northern Australia. Warmer conditions are expected nearer the coasts, with cooler temperatures inland. These outlooks are driven by the forecast development of conditions in the Indian Ocean, and to a lesser extent the Pacific Ocean, which are favourable for Australian rainfall. Warmer temperatures near the coasts are being influenced by the continuation of warm to very warm ocean temperatures surrounding Australia's coastline.

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**Program: Agency:** BOM **Question No:** 126  
**Topic:** Giles Weather Station  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator MacDonald asked:**

A new ten-year lease has been signed between the community of Warakurna and the Bureau of Meteorology for the continuation of the Giles weather station on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert in WA.

- a) How many BOM personnel are employed at Giles in total?
- b) How many of these personnel are Indigenous?
- c) How many BOM remote weather stations rely upon lease agreements with traditional owners for their continued operation in existing locations?
- d) What is the gross cost to the department of the lease agreement per year, and across the ten years?

**Answer:**

- a) 3
- b) 0
- c) 1
- d) The annual lease cost for Giles is \$20.00 plus GST. The current lease is for 10 years at a total cost of \$200 plus GST. There is an option for a 10 year extension to the current lease.