

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
IP AUSTRALIA
GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL OFFSHORE PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY

TOPIC: INCREASED EFFICIENCY DIVIDEND

REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

BI 05/84a QUESTION No.78
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/Agency this financial year and in the out years?

ANSWER

The financial impact of the increased efficiency dividend is disclosed on page 26 of the 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements for the Department, on page 119 for Geoscience Australia and on page 181 for Tourism Australia.

IP Australia and NOPSA operate on a cost-recovery basis and the efficiency dividend does not apply to these agencies.

BI 05/84b QUESTION No.79
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's election, what plans have you made to meet it?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

The efficiency dividend is a mechanism through which the Australian Government demonstrates and achieves a share of productivity gains through the more efficient delivery of services by agencies. The efficiency dividend is applied only to Departmental appropriations.

The Department allocates resources in accordance with priorities as set by the Government.

The Department seeks continuous improvement and DITR and its employees agree to work together to pursue the following strategies as outlined in DITR's Corporate Plan:

1. People Investment Strategy – recruiting, developing and retaining people with the skills we need;
2. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy – making the best use of technology to deliver efficient and effective services;
3. Financial Strategy – making the best use of the money available to us; and
4. Performance Management Strategy – ensuring that we are on track to fulfil our Mission.

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia regularly reviews its financial management strategy, the increase in the efficiency dividend was just one of a number of factors planned for.

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BI 05/84c **QUESTION No.80**
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

What will this mean for staff numbers?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

There is no direct link between the increase in the efficiency dividend and staff numbers.

Geoscience Australia

There is no direct link between the increase in the efficiency dividend and staff numbers.

BI 05/84d **QUESTION No.81**
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

There will be no reductions to programs as a result of the efficiency dividend.

Geoscience Australia

No specific programs will be cut as a result of the increase in the efficiency dividend.

BI 05/84e **QUESTION No.82**
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

There will be no core functions affected as a result of the efficiency dividend.

Geoscience Australia

No core functions will be affected by these savings measures.

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BI 05/84f **QUESTION No.83**
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

The Department's graduate recruitment plans will not be affected as a result of the efficiency dividend.

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia's graduate recruitment plan will not be affected as a result of the efficiency dividend.

BI 05/84g **QUESTION No.84**
(Written QON)

Senator Carr asked:

How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

The efficiency dividend will not impact the ability of the Department to retain experienced staff.

Geoscience Australia

The efficiency dividend is not expected to affect Geoscience Australia's ability to retain experienced staff.