

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome , Output
TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.10

Senator Brown asked:

10. What work has been undertaken to describe and quantify the costs of climate change for Australia?
Please list all relevant studies and provide a copy of reports and analyses.

ANSWER

The Department of Industry Tourism and Resources has undertaken no work to quantify the costs of climate change impacts for Australia. The Department of the Environment and Heritage has responsibility for administering the Australian Climate Change Science Program and the National Climate Change Adaptation Program.

QUESTION No.11

Senator Brown asked:

11. Is there any impediment to the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target scheme being adopted and expanded or extended by individual states and territories? Does the government support such action?
Please give reasons.

ANSWER

In the Energy White Paper, *Securing Australia's Energy Future*, the Australian Government announced its decision not to increase the MRET target, as it would impose significant economic costs through higher electricity prices.

The Australian Government considers that supporting individual states and territories to adopt and expand the MRET would conflict with its clear policy position on MRET and as such, does not support such action.

The Australian Government believes that renewable energy has an important role to play in Australia's energy mix. However, there currently exist a number of technical and regulatory barriers which are impeding its widespread penetration. Rather than increase the MRET, which would impose further costs on industry and affect Australia's international competitiveness, the Australian Government intends to target and address these barriers.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
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AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: RIO TINTO FOUNDATION
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.12

Senator Brown asked:

12. Why does the secretariat cost \$576 000 per annum and why are the costs fully charged against the government's contribution to the Foundation rather than being equally shared between the government and Rio Tinto?

ANSWER

The Secretariat budget is accounted for by the direct administration and operating costs of the Advisory Board, the Executive Director, and the Secretariat. The Loan Funds were provided for the purpose of establishing the Foundation and cover Secretariat expenses for the continued operation of the Foundation. Expenses in the first report represent 18 months of operation and include start-up costs. Administration costs incurred by Rio Tinto businesses in the conduct of Foundation projects are borne by those businesses and are not charged to the Foundation.

QUESTION No.13

Senator Brown asked:

13. Does the government approve the use of Foundation funds to pay Rio Tinto's 'industry' contribution of \$2.45 million to the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing? Please give details of any other Foundation funds allocated for similar purposes?

ANSWER

The promotion of practical sustainable development in the mining and metals industries as undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing is the core role of the Foundation. Accordingly, recognition of the contribution in the Foundation is appropriate. Similar support is provided for the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO₂CRC). Further information is provided in the Foundation Annual Report 2002-2003.

Other communication and networking activities for promotion of practical innovations, as outlined in the Annual Report are:

- participation in industry, government, academic and research collaborations and discussion forums aimed at sustainable development;
- engagement of research scientists and technologists across a wide range of targeted developments; and
- collaboration between Rio Tinto, researchers and industry partners in the scoping and conduct of Foundation projects, most of which involve significant proportions of externally sourced work.

QUESTION No.14

Senator Brown asked:

14. Please provide a list of patents applied for or registered arising out of work funded through the Foundation?

ANSWER

The Foundation has been established to support research and development of practical innovations through a variety of programs using Rio Tinto professional staff and links to researchers and technology providers within Australia and around the world. The status of various projects is outlined in the Annual Report 2002-2003. Any patents arising from these projects would be a matter for the project proponent/s, which could include one of a number of Rio Tinto Group companies, or a research partner. Information about intellectual property is not required to be provided to the Advisory Board which governs the Foundation.

QUESTION No.15

Senator Brown asked:

15. Please provide a list of publications in refereed journals arising out of work funded through the Foundation?

ANSWER

As outlined above, the Foundation has been established to support research and development of practical innovations through a variety of programs. The Foundation receives reports on the status of these programs at Advisory Board Meetings. Any decisions to publish project material in third party journals would be a matter for the project proponent/s. Information about published work is not required to be provided to the Advisory Board.

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AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: EMPLOYMENT IN TASMANIAN NATIVE FOREST BASED INDUSTRIES
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.16

Senator Brown asked:

16. Regarding jobs in Tasmanian native forest based industries, how many (a) direct and (b) indirect full-time or full-time equivalent jobs are sustained by each of the following and what quantity of native forest wood is used in each case –

- i) logging of native forests
- ii) log cartage of native forests
- iii) woodchipping at mill/export facilities of native forests
- iv) pulp and paper making dependent on native forests
- v) sawmilling using native forests
- vi) veneer production using native forests
- vii) other manufacturing (please specify) using native forests
- viii) tourism using native forests; please detail how this estimate is made
- ix) other native forest based industries; please specify.

In each of these categories, how many jobs are part-time or casual.

Please provide the most recent figures and the date to which the figures apply.

ANSWER

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes employment statistics for broad industry groups. The employment statistics published by the ABS for the forest and wood production groups in Tasmania for the past 3 quarters is set out below:

Sector	February 2004		May 2004		August 2004	
	Full (000)	P/T (000)	Full (000)	P/T (000)	Full (000)	P/T (000)
Forestry and Logging	3.3	0.5	2.5	0.6	2.9	0.3
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	4.3	-	4.7	0.2	4.1	0.3
Log Sawmilling and Timber Dressing	2.3	-	1.9	0.1	1.4	0.2
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	1.1	-	1.2	0.1	1.2	-
Paper and Paper Product Manufacturing	0.9	-	1.5	-	1.5	-
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing – (not further defined)	-	-	-	-	-	-

[Source: ABS Cat No. 6291.0.55.001 Employed Persons - State by Industry Groups]

The Department does not hold any statistics on the quantity of native forest wood used in each category.

The Department is not aware of any data on employment specifically associated with tourism using Tasmania's native forests.