

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Public Service Efficiencies

Senator: Cormann

Question reference number: F11

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 48-49, 29 May 2013

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator CORMANN: The measure also includes a \$14.6 million saving from the rationalisation of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. Does that measure include redundancies?

...

Senator CORMANN: Please tell me how you have costed the \$14.6 million in savings. How do you assume that this will be achieved?

Senator Wong: I think the measure sets it out—the rationalisation of corporate functions resulting from the transfer of functions of the former DCCEE to the Department of Industry, Innovation et cetera.

Senator CORMANN: I have read what is in the budget papers, Minister, but that does not tell us how it is actually going to be achieved and the methodology for costing that savings. So, how is it specifically going to be achieved? You talk about fewer Secretaries, fewer CFOs and fewer corporate functions. Give us some facts and figures around that, please.

Mr Martine: I do not have the specific costing details on this particular measure with me, so I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The saving of \$14.6 million over four years from the transfer of functions of the former Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) was calculated on the basis that funding will no longer be required for particular activities/functions that are already funded in the agencies that the functions of the former DCCEE were transferred to. Examples include a Departmental Executive (i.e. a Secretary, Secretary's office support etc.) and funding for corporate support agreed upon the establishment of the former DCCEE.

The total quantum of savings was allocated between the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research, and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE) and the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET) in line with the proportions of staff transferring to each department. As a result, the budgets allocated to the two receiving

departments have been reduced by \$10.2 million over four years (DIICCSRTE) and \$4.4 million over four years (DRET) respectively.

How the savings are actually achieved within DIICCSRTE and DRET is a matter for the Secretaries of the departments to determine.