

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Program 1.6

Question No. 20

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:

Senator HUMPHRIES: ... Could I ask some questions about the National Flood Risk Information Project. That is under EMA's area of responsibility?

Mr Wilkins: Yes.

Senator HUMPHRIES: I see that \$12 million has been committed over the next four years to development of this project in response to the Natural Disaster Insurance Review, and I assume that most of that money is being spent on building the information that will be at the other side of this portal—that people will be able to access through this portal that is being developed by Geoscience Australia. Is that correct?

Mr Sheehan: Yes.

...

Senator HUMPHRIES: This project was announced before the budget—last year, in fact. How much of the allocated funding of \$12 million has already been spent and how much is yet to be spent?

Mr Sheehan: I think that is probably a question that we would have to check with Geoscience Australia, because all the funding went to them to build the portal. We wrote the guidelines. We would have to check that with Geoscience Australia.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Could I, on notice, have a breakdown of where that \$12 million actually gets spent. What are the components of the \$12 million, please?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Geoscience Australia was appropriated \$12m over four years (from July 2012) for the implementation of the National Flood Risk Information Project.

The Project will deliver the following initiatives over the period;

- development and population of a Portal to provide a central point of access to publicly-funded flood study information (including flood maps) and flood related earth observation imagery (\$2.4 million)
- development of technical guidelines (\$0.55 million) for input of flood study data to the portal, and development of technical standards including the revision of Australian Rainfall and Runoff (\$5.15 million)
- extraction of water observations through the processing of national scale earth observation imagery (Landsat and Modis) (\$2.5 million)
- balance of funding allocated for administration, stakeholder engagement, support activities and project management expenses (\$1.4 million)