

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2019

Environment and Energy portfolio – Monday, 21 October 2019

Question No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing	Comment
1.	Corporate: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Departmental officers working on climate change and drought	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many people in your department, Secretary, work on the impact of climate change and drought?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you think of one?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I'll take it on notice.</p>	Page 20 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000443
2.	Corporate: CCD	Senator Waters	Informed consent issue for First Nations people	<p>Senator WATERS: This time I really mean it! Which Commonwealth agency, if any, will have oversight into the free, prior and informed consent issue for First Nations people? It's an extremely controversial project. I don't think it will be your department, but who should I follow that up with, to the best of your knowledge?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I don't know that I can answer that. I would have to take that on notice as well.</p>	Page 107 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000408
3.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	Orders for the production of documents	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: How many orders for the production of documents has the department handled this year?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Is that your area?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: No, it's not.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 13 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000399
4.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Urquhart	Departmental funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Heferen, can you tell me what the department's budget is? I mean departmental funding as separate to administrative funding.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I might call the chief operating officer.</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: The appropriation is \$441,902 million.</p>	Pages 52-53 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000400

				<p>Senator URQUHART: Is that a change from last year?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: Yes; it is an increase of \$37,963,000.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What programs have been increased as a result of that extra \$37 million?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: In terms of changes published since the PBS, we have an action plan to reduce power prices, supporting Australia's participation in the high-level panel on sustainable oceans, the Copper String 2.0 project, expediting the Antarctic runway business case, the Powering Forward campaign, reprofiling ARENA, and the transfer of responsibility of the registered environmental organisations.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm happy for you to take it on notice, but can you give me a breakdown of how that \$37 million fits into each of the categories?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: Yes, I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What about the administered funding? What is that budget?</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: Sorry, we had our CFO here during the general questions available to answer all of those questions, and he has now left when we've closed off the general questions. Can I take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You can; but do you know if there's a change from last year?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Almost by definition I'm sure there has been.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Has it been an increase or a decrease, Mr Knudson?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We can certainly come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You can take it on notice. Can I have the total spend on all environmental programs for each year since 2013? I am happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms Goodwin: We will take that on notice. I will note, though, that there is change across that period. Since 2013 we've had multiple machinery-of-government changes and internal restructures, so it's hard to have a comparable number, but we'll definitely take that on notice.</p>		
5.	Corporate:	Senator Farrell	Staffing	What is the average number of staff in each area/division	Written	SQ19-000527

	CSD			<p>within the Department of Environment and Energy? Please provide details for each area/division, for each year since 2013.</p> <p>What is the number of FTE that currently answers to the Minister for the Environment?</p> <p>What is the number of FTE staff that currently answers to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction?</p> <p>What is the annual turnover rate in the Department of Environment and Energy for each year since 2013?</p> <p>What division/area of the DoEE experiences the highest staff turnover rate?</p>		
6.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Executive management	<p>In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The total number of executive management positions The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. The change in the number of executive manager positions. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. 	Written	SQ19-000475
7.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Ministerial functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 July 2018, can the following be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of functions. List of all attendees. Function venue. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Details of any food served. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. 	Written	SQ19-000477

				<p>g. Any available photographs of the function.</p> <p>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>		
8.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Departmental functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio since 1 July 2018, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. List of functions.</p> <p>b. List of all attendees.</p> <p>c. Function venue.</p> <p>d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>e. Details of any food served.</p> <p>f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage.</p> <p>g. Any available photographs of the function.</p> <p>h. Details of any entertainment provided.</p>	Written	SQ19-000478
9.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Executive office upgrades	<p>Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries been upgraded since 1 July 2018. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>	Written	SQ19-000480
10.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Facilities upgrades	<p>Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies since 1 July 2018. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment.</p> <p>If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).</p> <p>If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.</p>	Written	SQ19-000481
11.	Corporate:	Senator	Staff travel	<p>What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency</p>	Written	SQ19-000482

	CSD	Kitching		employees for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.		
12.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Secretarial travel	Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department since 1 July 2018 be provided including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided. 	Written	SQ19-000485
13.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Briefings	Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, can the following be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The subject matter of the briefing. b. The location and date of the briefing. c. Who proposed the briefing. d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position 	Written	SQ19-000490
14.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Acting Minister arrangements	Can the Department provide all leave periods of the portfolio Minister from 24 August 2018 to date. Can the Department further provide acting Minister arrangements for each leave period.	Written	SQ19-000491
15.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Departmental staff allowances	Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.	Written	SQ19-000492

16.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Ministerial overseas travel	<p>Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 July 2018 please be provided including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided. Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided. 	Written	SQ19-000500
17.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Stationery	How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in FY 2019-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.	Written	SQ19-000512
18.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Departmental staff in Minister's office	<p>Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Duration of secondment. APS level. <p>Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>	Written	SQ19-000510
19.	Corporate:	Senator	Recruitment	What amount has been expended by the department/agency	Written	SQ19-000504

	CSD	Kitching		<p>on external recruitment or executive search services in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>		
20.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Staffing	<p>How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at 21 October 2019. How does this differ from the figures presented in Budget Paper 4 in the 2019-20 Budget.</p> <p>How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing.</p> <p>How many redundancies have occurred in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date. How many were:</p> <p>a. voluntary</p> <p>b. involuntary.</p> <p>How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.</p>	Written	SQ19-000502
21.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Comcare	<p>For FY 2018-19 and FY2019-20 to date, can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status.</p>	Written	SQ19-000501

				Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the FY2019-20 to date.		
22.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Fair Work Commission	For FY 2018-19 and FY2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.	Written	SQ19-000499
23.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Fair Work Ombudsman	For FY 2018-19 and FY2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.	Written	SQ19-000497
24.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	For FY 2018-19 and FY2019-20 to date, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.	Written	SQ19-000496
25.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Kitching	Public Interest Disclosures	For FY 2018-19 and FY2019-20 to date, how many public interest disclosures have been received.	Written	SQ19-000493
26.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	All external Consultants	<p>In relation to the use of all external consultants in the Department or agencies within the portfolio, can the following be provided.</p> <p>a. For each of the last six financial years from 2013-14 to 2018-19, the total amount spent on external consultants, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. contracts tagged as a “consultancy”. ii. contracts not defined as a “consultancy”, but tagged as “business intelligence consulting services”, “information technology consultation services”, “management advisory services”, “management support services”, “organisational structure consultation”, “risk management consultation services” or “strategic planning consultation services” <p>b. The total amount of full time equivalent hours (FTE’s) provided by external consultants in 2018-19.</p> <p>c. The total amount of variances granted to external</p>	Written	SQ19-000489

				<p>consultant contracts (including those specified in 1(a)(i) above) in 2018-19.</p> <p>d. A breakdown by consultant, specifications and project completion for 2018-19.</p>		
27.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	Information technology consultant spend	<p>In relation to expenditure on information technology in the Department or agencies within the portfolio, can the following be provided.</p> <p>a. For each of the last six financial years from 2013-14 to 2018-19, the total amount spent on information technology consultation services</p> <p>b. The total amount of full time equivalent hours (FTE's) provided by information technology consultation services in 2018-19.</p> <p>c. The total amount contracted to information technology consultation services in 2018-19.</p> <p>d. The total amount of variances granted to information technology consultation services contracts in 2018-19.</p> <p>e. A breakdown by consultant, specifications and project completion for 2018-19.</p>	Written	SQ19-000488
28.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	All External contractors	<p>In relation to the use of all external contractors in the Department or agencies within the portfolio, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. The total amount spent on all contracts for Management and Business Professionals and Administrative Services for each of the last six financial years from 2013-14 to 2018-19.</p> <p>b. The total amount spent on all contracts tagged as "Temporary Personnel Services" for each of the last six financial years from 2013-14 to 2018-19.</p> <p>c. The total number of external contractors employed in 2018-19.</p> <p>d. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all external contractors employed in 2018-19.</p> <p>e. The total number of FTE hours provided by external</p>	Written	SQ19-000486

				contractors in 2018-19.		
29.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	Information technology contractors	In relation to the use of external information technology contractors in the Department or agencies within the portfolio, can the following be provided: a. The total amount spent on external contractors for each of the last six financial years from 2013-14 to 2018-19. b. The total number of external contractors employed in 2018-19. c. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all external contractors employed in 2018-19. d. The total number of FTE hours provided by external contractors in 2018-19.	Written	SQ19-000484
30.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	Cost of APS staff	The total cost of all staff employed under the Public Service Act for each of the last six financial years from 2013/14 to 2018/19.	Written	SQ19-000476
31.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Farrell	Environmental programs budget	How much has been spent (not allocated) on environmental programs, each year, since 2013?	Written	SQ19-000529
32.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Gallagher	Grants	Please provide, for all administered and discretionary grant programs administered by each department and agency within the portfolio: a. Name of the administered or discretionary grant program. b. The recipient of the grant. c. The ABN or ACN of the grant recipient. d. The charitable status of the grant recipient. e. Who authorised the grant payment. f. For each year of the budget and forward estimates: i. What is the total funding budgeted for the program; ii. How much funding has been contracted and allocated; iii. How much funding has been contracted but not allocated; iv. How much funding has been committed but not contracted;	Written	SQ19-000479

				v. How much funding is uncommitted, uncontracted and unallocated.		
33.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Rice	Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender update	Please provide an update to 2018-19 Budget estimates QoN 1 and 3. In particular, is the Department compliant with the Australian Government Guidelines on the Recognition of Sex and Gender? Are its portfolio agencies compliant?	Written	SQ19-000604
34.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	Delegations register	Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. I have a final question in this area: you mentioned that ministers may delegate functions to departmental secretaries for the purposes of fulfilling those responsibilities. Do you have a delegations register; and, if so, could we have a copy of that? Mr Heferen: I'm sure that we do. We'll take that on notice and provide it to the committee.	Page 8 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000397
35.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	FOI process	Senator GALLAGHER: Do you know the average number of days it takes to process an FOI in the department? Do you keep those statistics? Ms Tregurtha: The statutory time frame is set by the legislation. So we make every effort to comply with those statutory time frames. Senator GALLAGHER: Do you have the details? Presumably there are times when you fall outside of them. What's the average number of days? Ms Tregurtha: I'd have to take on notice whether we can, in fact, provide that statistic.	Page 11 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000398
36.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	FOI average handling time	Senator GALLAGHER: Do you know how many FOIs you've had to deal with over the last complete financial year? Ms Tregurtha: Yes. Senator GALLAGHER: So you've got that statistic available? Are you sure that you don't have the average time of handling? Mrs Lalor: We do have it in front of us. For the financial year 2018-19, there were 237 primary requests. Senator GALLAGHER: Was that a large amount for the	Page 12 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000605

				<p>department?</p> <p>Mrs Lalor: Yes. To put that in its context, the statistic for 2017-18 was 127 primary requests.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Yes, I think I've seen that reported. What other statistics do you have? You've got those but you don't have the average handling time or processing time. Are you going to be able to get that today?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I'd have to check with the team to see whether we can provide that, but we will attempt to provide it.</p>		
37.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	Letter to the Office of Information Commissioner – date of non- compliance	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Fine. I just want to quickly go, before my time runs out, to the letter of 18 October from you, Ms Kate Lalor, to the Office of Information Commissioner which essentially acknowledges that the department has been non-compliant or breaking the FOI Act of 1982. Can I just start at the beginning of this. When did the department become aware that it was breaking the law?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: If I can take that in the first instance, we have a range of statutory obligations under the FOI Act and we do understand that and we make every effort to make sure that we comply with those. As is set out in the letter, we made a decision last year to change our disclosure log process so that documents were made immediately available so that members of the public didn't have to come back and ask for them. It is apparent that, in doing that, we encountered some difficulties with the website, which then were resolved. But that put us behind our statutory obligation and we're now in a situation where we're making every effort to catch that up.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I do understand that from reading the letter about the other issues, but can you answer my question, which was: when did you become aware that you were not compliant with the requirements under section 11C? The letter doesn't go to that point.</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I would say that, at the point in time that we were behind on the disclosure log, we were aware that we</p>	Page 13 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000606

				<p>were not complying.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: So you don't have a date for when you became aware and who became aware? Was it raised by somebody?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I'm responsible for the FOI processing area and I was aware. I would have to check on what particular date. But we looked at all of the obligations that we had under the act and made a decision to try to get the disclosure log up to date but to focus primarily on processing FOI applications. We did have, during that March and April time earlier this year, a significant spike in FOI applications; so the focus was on that. But we do accept that that is not up to standard and we're taking steps to resolve that issue.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: It's still not clear. Basically, you were shifting your processes and, during the shifting of processes, you became aware that you were non-compliant with the law; is that right?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: Yes.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: But you can't pick a date where that happened?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I can come back to you.</p> <p>....</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Going back to the time—I accept that you're coming back with a date—your letter to the Information Commissioner says that your disclosure log currently covers decisions made up until 17 December 2018. Obviously, you were compliant up to that point; can I take that from there?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: That was brought into compliance this year, so I would have to get you the exact dates for this. But we had a backlog which extended into 2018 and that first part of it was dealt with at a point during this year and now we have the remainder to manage. We set out in our letter to the Information Commissioner our process for diverting further resources to do that as quickly as possible.</p>		
38.	Corporate:	Senator	FOI disclosure log	Senator GALLAGHER: This is where I'm trying to get to.	Page 16	SQ19-000401

	LCD	Gallagher		<p>You've got the FOIs and they've gone through that process; the next is to put it on the disclosure log. If it's a relatively simple process, why hasn't that occurred? Based on your letter you say you're up to date to December, but that would have you a good nine months behind time at the moment.</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: That's correct. Once we had the backlog, it was difficult to get the time to focus on that because, as I've said, we were focusing on processing the primary requests. Our objective is to deal with that backlog so that, when we are up to date—you are right in this sense—it then will be a relatively straightforward and quick process.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: If it's, say, nine months behind now, what was the delay in the disclosure log at the peak of this breach of the law?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: I would have to take that on notice to give you an accurate figure.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Okay.</p>	Monday 21 October	
39.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	FOI Ministerial briefing	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Okay. Can you take on notice when the minister became aware or how the minister was briefed on this breach of the law? And, if the minister wasn't briefed, why, and who took that decision at the department not to?</p> <p>Ms Tregurtha: Yes, I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Unless someone can answer it now?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: No, Senator. I don't recall actually briefing the minister on these matters—either minister or any minister—at any point in time.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Can you explain why? It would seem to me, with a minister in charge of a department and a department knowingly accepting the fact that they had not met the requirements of the FOI Act—that is, they've breached the law—that that would not trigger advice to the minister?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We have a broad range of responsibilities.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: But breaking the law—</p>	Page 17 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000402

				<p>Mr Cahill: At the core of the FOI, we've made the ministers' offices over the time aware of the actual pressure under FOI. But ultimately it's the judgement of the department.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: But pressure is different to breaking the law. The department is using the words 'We were under pressure in FOI', which I get completely—I accept that—but that is a different matter to notifying the executive government that you are not meeting the requirements of the FOI Act.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I will check whatever advice we've given. I'm not aware of any brief or anything that we've given specifically. This was a matter of the department not doing something to an acceptable level and we've responded accordingly. I think that letter outlines that the department will bring itself up to standard in the next week.</p>		
40.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Gallagher	FOI requests	<p>Mr Heferen: So to the extent that there were FOI requests and they have been processed in a timely way, the recipient of that request has that information.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: I'm not sure outside how many have been compliant with the time frame because that information hasn't been able to be provided this morning.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Which we will take on notice and endeavour to provide.</p>	Page 18 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000403
41.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Kitching	Legal costs	What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.	Written	SQ19-000483
42.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Farrell	FOI disclosure log update	<p>When will the DoEE FOI disclosure log be completely up to date?</p> <p>How many staff have assisted with uploading documents to the DoEE FOI disclosure log since 1 October 2019? Please provide details of which division staff were redeployed from in order to assist with uploading documents to the disclosure log.</p>	Written	SQ19-000528

43.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Kitching	FOI	<p>Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for the following years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2013-14; 2014-15; 2015-16; 2016-17; 2018-19; and 2019-20 to date. <p>For each year above, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full; The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part; The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act. <p>For each year above, please also provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request). <p>For each year above, please also provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and The number of times has the OAIC overturned – in whole or in part – the Department's decision to refuse access to material. <p>Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests,</p>	Written	SQ19-000487
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			<p>broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four APS6s, one SES) for each of the following years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; and f. 2019-20 to date. <p>For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department.</p> <p>In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level.</p> <p>Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister's office.</p> <p>Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response.</p> <p>Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; and b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister. <p>Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation,</p>		
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				transfer of request).		
44.	Corporate: LCD	Senator Kitching	CDDA payments	<p>How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for FY 2018-19?</p> <p>How many claims were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted. Rejected. Under consideration. <p>Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations The date payment was made The decision maker. 	Written	SQ19-000508
45.	Corporate: KTD	Senator Gallagher	The Protected Security Policy Framework	<p>The Australian Government set a target date for government entities to achieve compliance with the Australian Signals Directorate's Top Four mitigation strategies as detailed in the Protected Security Policy Framework (PSPF), INFOSEC 10 core requirements by 30 June 2014. Non-corporate Commonwealth entities are required to apply the Mandatory 4 whereas it is only considered best practice for corporate Commonwealth entities and wholly-owned Commonwealth companies. ASD had stated that implementing the top 4 mitigation strategies will be able to prevent over 85% of unauthorised intrusions.</p> <p><i>Overall compliance and reporting</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Department compliant with the core requirements in the Protected Security Policy Framework, <i>INFOSEC 10: Safeguarding information from cyber threats</i> policy? Under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, all non-corporate 	Written	SQ19-000546

				<p>Commonwealth entities are required to report annually to the Attorney-General on the implementation of the Protected Security Policy Framework (PSPF). Has the Department provided an annual report to the Attorney general in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 on compliance with the INFOSEC 10 core requirements?</p> <p><i>Mandatory 4 implementation</i></p> <p>3. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, requirement 1: application whitelisting?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model what is the maturity of application whitelisting implementation?</p> <p>4. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, requirement 2: patching applications?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model, what is the maturity of patching applications implementation?</p> <p>5. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, requirement 3: restriction of administrative privileges?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model, what is the maturity of 'restrict administrative privileges' implementation?</p> <p>6. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, requirement 4: patching operating systems?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model, what is the maturity of 'Patching operating systems' implementation?</p> <p><i>Essential 8 implementation</i></p> <p>7. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework <i>INFOSEC 10, C.4, 27 (a)</i>:</p>		
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				<p>configuring Microsoft Office macro settings?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model what is the maturity of ‘configuring Microsoft Office macro settings’ implementation?</p> <p>8. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, C.4, 27 (b): user application hardening?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model what is the maturity of ‘configuring Microsoft Office macro settings’ implementation?</p> <p>9. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, C.4, 27 (c): multi-factor authentication?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model what is the maturity of ‘multi-factor authentication’ implementation?</p> <p>10. Has the Department implemented Protected Security Policy Framework INFOSEC 10, C.4, 27 (d): daily backups?</p> <p>a. According to the Essential Eight Maturity Model what is the maturity of ‘daily backups’ implementation?</p> <p><i>Accountability and funding</i></p> <p>11. How many times has the Department conducted a self assessment of its compliance with the Protected Security Policy Framework Essential Eight mitigation strategies and cyber resilience since 1 July 2013?</p> <p>12. How many independent assessments of its cyber resilience has the Department conducted since 1 July 2013?</p> <p>13. Has the Minister responsible been briefed on cyber security vulnerabilities in the Department networks since 1 July 2013?</p>		
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				<p>14. Has an Australian Signals Directorate cyber security sprint team been deployed to the Department since 1 July 2013?</p> <p>15. How much funding has the Department allocated to cyber security each year during 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019?</p> <p>16. How many times has there been a physical or cyber intrusion attempt made on the Department's networks that were considered serious enough to warrant an operational response in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019?</p>		
46.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Gallagher	Written document - portfolio responsibilities	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: I think this came up at the last hearing—a situation where there's a fair bit of cc-ing of other ministers into what's going on, from the department's point of view. For example, if there's a committee inquiry or something of public note that affects Minister Taylor, the department would often, where relevant, cc in Minister Ley for the purposes of information.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: This is what I'm trying to get to—how the department operationalises the number of players or ministers within your department.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: As much as possible, we try to keep all of our ministers informed of issues that they progress. Sometimes there are constraints around that but, in the main, that's what we endeavour to do.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: As for having a written document that's provided for the information of the Public Service about how that operates, is there a document that exists; and, if so, can we have a copy of it?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Could we take that on notice, so that we've got the right document?</p>	Page 8 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000396
47.	Corporate:	Senator	Promotional	What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on	Written	SQ19-000498

	PAID	Kitching	merchandise	<p>promotional merchandise for FY 2018-19.</p> <p>Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.</p> <p>Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.</p>		
48.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Social media influencers	<p>What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 to date.</p> <p>What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>	Written	SQ19-000503
49.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Commissioned reports and reviews	<p>Since 24 August 2018, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date commissioned. Date report handed to Government. Date of public release. Terms of Reference. Committee members and/or Reviewers. <p>How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review</p>	Written	SQ19-000507

				<p>personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</p> <p>The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>		
50.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Board appointments	<p>Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>Please detail any board appointments made from 1 July 2018 to date.</p> <p>What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>	Written	SQ19-000509
51.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Appointments – briefs prepared	<p>How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level.</p> <p>For each brief prepared, can the Department advise:</p> <p>a. The former member.</p>	Written	SQ19-000511

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The board or entity. c. Whether the request originated from the Minister's office. d. Whether the appointment was made. 		
52.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Media monitoring	<p>What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the each Minister's office for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2019-20. <p>What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which agency or agencies provided these services. b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2019-20. 	Written	SQ19-000514
53.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Communications staff	<p>For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:</p> <p>By Department or agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location. b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of 	Written	SQ19-000513

				<p>work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>d. How many are graphic designers.</p> <p>e. How many are media managers.</p> <p>f. How many organise events.</p> <p>Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios.</p> <p>a. If yes, why.</p> <p>b. When was it established.</p> <p>c. What is the set up cost.</p> <p>d. What is the ongoing cost.</p> <p>e. How many staff work there and what are their classifications.</p>		
54.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Congestion busting	<p>Can the Department/agency advise how it is “congestion busting” in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks.</p> <p>Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve “congestion busting” within the department.</p>	Written	SQ19-000506
55.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Market research	<p>Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of:</p> <p>a. Subject matter</p> <p>b. Company</p> <p>c. Costs</p> <p>d. Contract date period</p> <p>Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>	Written	SQ19-000494

56.	Corporate: PAID	Senator Kitching	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for FY 2018-19 and for the current financial year to date.</p> <p>What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When approval was first sought. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline. <p>Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>	Written	SQ19-000495
57.	1.1: BCD	Senator Abetz	Biodiversity Fund project	<p>Senator ABETZ: My question relates to the Biodiversity Fund: from that I understand a grant was issued to remove 218 hectares of eucalyptus nitens from the 2013 minor boundary modification to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. Who can give us a progress report as to how much of the plantation has been removed, and if any remains?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I would have to take on notice the specific details of the Biodiversity Fund project, so we will do that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Okay. There was another project where a grant recipient was funded to deliver 24,000 trees in former forestry coupe Arve 009B. I'm assuming nobody is able to tell me about that, either.</p> <p>Ms Campbell: That's correct. We will take that on notice as well.</p>	Page 52 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000404
58.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Sixth national report to the UN Convention on	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And in our report will there be a specific section that deals with the threat of climate change?</p>	Page 74 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000612

			Biological Diversity	<p>Ms Campbell: I would say it's probably too early to say—we're still working through that report. We'll have to wait until the report is finalised.</p> <p>Ms Stevens: I would also outline that the convention secretariat set a template that we need to compile and respond to. The template is quite prescriptive in how you structure it. I suspect throughout that template you will find commentary around climate change. As to whether it's a specific section, I'm not familiar if that's how they've structured it this year.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thanks. If there's any other detail you can give me about the submissions I'm happy for you to take that on notice in terms of how many, the topics they covered, consultation meetings—</p> <p>Ms Stevens: In terms of the sixth national report submissions, the approval of the submitter would be made public at the time of the report.</p>		
59.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Post-2020 biodiversity framework	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: This is going to be on notice—there are two parts, though, so I can wrap up this part of the questioning and come to a different topic when it comes back to me. Could you provide for me a schedule of all of the domestic and international forums, meetings, workshops and conferences that relate to the post-2020 biodiversity framework. I'm happy for you to take that on notice. Could you also give me an outline as to what the engagement with Indigenous people will be, seeing the very particular engagement they have with biodiversity here in Australia. Thank you.</p>	Page 76 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000409
60.	1.1: BCD	Senator Rice	Threatened Species Strategy	<p>Given we are less than three months from 2020, and the Year Three Report was issued in June 2019, will the Threatened Species Strategy deliver on its goals by 2020?</p> <p>If not which goals will be delivered on and which goals will not? When is it expected that these goals will be delivered on?</p>	Written	SQ19-000517

				Noting the strategy was launched in 2015 and The Year Three Report was published in mid-2019 - when is it expected that the year four and final year five reports/results will be public?		
61.	1.1: BCD	Senator Rice	20 million trees program	What is the current total of trees successfully established? Does the Department track the types of trees established and the location of these trees? If yes, please provide a breakdown by type and location.	Written	SQ19-000518
62.	1.1: BCD	Senator Rice	Biodiversity Stewardship Pilot Program	Does or will the Department of Environment and Energy have a role in the development of the \$30 million Agricultural Biodiversity Stewardship Pilot Program being run by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources? If so, what is that role and how will the Minister/Department ensure the program builds on lessons learnt from programs previously delivered by the Department of Environment and the National Landcare Program?	Written	SQ19-000519
63.	1.1: BCD	Senator Farrell	Communities Environment Program	In relation to the government's \$22.65 million Communities Environment Program (CEP), can the DoEE please provide the following information: Will this program continue beyond 2019, and if so, how much funding is allocated to the program for each year beyond the current financial year? Of the funding allocated to establish the Communities Environment Program (CEP), how much was awarded to successful projects? How will the remaining funds be used and will they be returned to consolidated revenue? What advice was provided to the Department of Environment and Energy from the Minister of their office, in relation to the CEP grant guidelines? Please provide the nature of this	Written	SQ19-000530

				<p>advice, including when the advice was provided and what form the advice was provided.</p> <p>Please provide the number of staff that have been responsible for managing the CEP grant process, including the call centre, for each month since the program commenced.</p> <p>How many changes were made to the grant eligibility or guidelines after applications had opened? What was the nature of those changes?</p> <p>Who was involved in the decision to extend the deadline by one week, and what were the reasons for this extension?</p> <p>When was the decision made to involve Regional Land Partnership Services in the program, by whom and for what reason?</p> <p>How many complaints has the DoEE received in relation to the program, and what was the nature of these complaints?</p> <p>What were the reasons for restricting eligibility criteria to “on the ground” projects?</p>		
64.	1.1: BCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Forty-Spotted Pardalote - Threatened Species Scientific Committee	<p>When was the last time the Committee examined the Forty-Spotted Pardalote for reassessment or to review the Recovery Plan?</p> <p>What should a scientist do if they think that a species is in sharp decline, if they are seeing clear evidence that it is becoming extinct?</p> <p>Who should they tell?</p> <p>Whose job is it to respond to the call by these scientists for a reintroduction program?</p>	Written	SQ19-000536

				Is the extinction of the Forty Spotted Pardalote avoidable? Who should be held accountable to make sure it doesn't happen?		
65.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Biodiversity Conference 2020	<p>In late 2020 in Kunming, China, world leaders will gather to set new targets to protect nature under the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).</p> <p>UN Convention on Biological Diversity - Sixth National Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can the Department outline when it will release the sixth national report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, noting that it was due in December 2018? - What is the reason for the significant delay? - How many FTE are working on preparing the report? - Which stakeholders and states and territories have been consulted in preparing the report? <p>National Biodiversity Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can the department outline when its anticipated the National Biodiversity Strategy to be released? - What has been the process for engaging with the states and territories on the strategy? - Has the strategy been provided to the Minister yet? <p>UN Convention on Biological Diversity - Post 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many FTE are dedicated to working on the development of the UN Biodiversity post 2020 	Written	SQ19-000558

				<p>framework?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is the Department planning on running public consultations? <i>NB Dept is currently running invite only workshops on the framework.</i> - Will there be an opportunity for the public and those not invited to the workshops to engage and provide their views on this issue? - Given the importance placed on the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities by the convention, can the Department outline its plans to engage with and seek views from Indigenous communities in Australia on the framework? - Can the Department provide the committee with a schedule of all domestic and international forums, meetings, workshops and conferences that relate to the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework? 		
66.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Biodiversity offsets	<p>Can the Department outline how it tracks biodiversity offsets? What systems are in place to monitor and measure offsets?</p> <p>If you can answer with a simple yes/ no - Does the department have sufficient data to measure if offsets required under EPBC are effectively compensating for the biodiversity loss that occurred through development?</p> <p>Does the Department have a map of where all the offsets its required are located?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EPBC offsets policy was scheduled to be 	Written	SQ19-000559

				<p>reviewed in 2017, whatever happened to that review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can the Department provide a list of all projects that have Biodiversity offsets attached to them and the general location of those offsets? - Can the Department provide a list of all offsets that have been inspected by compliance and/or monitoring staff? 		
67.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Threatened Species Scientific Committee - resources	<p>Can the TSSC outline its current workload? There appears to be significant delays in a number of listing decisions, is this an accurate observation?</p> <p>Can the TSSC outline the resources it would require to effectively keep on top of the growing listing workload?</p>	Written	SQ19-000560
68.	1.1: BCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Threatened Species Scientific Committee - critical habitat	<p>Can the TSSC articulate the importance of preserving habitat critical to the survival of threatened species? What is the consequence of losing these areas?</p> <p>The EPBC Act has provision for formal listing of “critical habitat” - What is the role of the TSSC in relation to the nomination and listing of critical habitat under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>Given that there are only 5 places on the national register of critical habitat and the last habitat was listed in 2007 and that the penalty provision only apply to Commonwealth land, does the committee have a view to the effectiveness of that bit of legislation in protecting critical habitat for threatened species?</p> <p>Is the committee aware of analysis that says there are 25 species that are either entirely or partly on Commonwealth land and for which there appears to be sufficient information</p>	Written	SQ19-000561

				to investigate critical habitat listing? What barriers are there to these places being inscribed on the list?		
69.	1.1: BCD	Senator Lines	Swan-Canning River Recovery Program - eliminate hydrocolyte from Canning River and restore riverbank environment	<p>What government program/fund is the Federal Government contribution being made from for the Swan-Canning River Recovery Program?</p> <p>How much has the Federal Government committed for the project?</p> <p>What is the projected completion date for the project?</p>	Written	SQ19-000562
70.	1.1: BCD	Senator Patrick	Threatened Species Scientific Committee - Australian Sea Lion	<p>In relation to the current listing status process of the Australian Sea Lion, who conducted the initial modelling and how much funding was spent on this?</p> <p>In relation to future modelling costs, is there money set aside and available for this? If so, how much?</p> <p>From Financial Year 10/11 onwards, please provide the total funding for the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for each financial year.</p>	Written	SQ19-000563
71.	1.1: BCD	Senator Patrick	Recovery plan for the Australian Sea Lion	<p>From 2004 onwards, please provide information of the money that has been spent to give effect to the current recovery plan for the Australian Sea Lion.</p> <p>Starting from the date the application for the listing status of the Australian Sea Lion was made, please provide information of how much Departmental funding has been allocated for research associated with this. Please provide a breakdown of who received the funding and when.</p>	Written	SQ19-000564
72.	1.1: HRMD	Senator Green	Role of the Special Envoy to the Great Barrier Reef	<p>Mr Oxley: Mr Entsch's core responsibility is to support Minister Ley and work with Assistant Minister Evans in implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan. Part of those responsibilities is to go out and actively engage with the</p>	Page 54 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000611

				<p>public and members of the community across the full length of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park catchment and all of the industries and interest sectors. As part of that role, Mr Entsch is expected to make sure that, as best he can, there is a good public understanding of the comprehensive set of programs and initiatives being implemented by the government under the Reef 2050 Plan to improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Is that information available in a document somewhere? Has the government made that publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I will have to take on notice—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: The description of the role.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: a public description of the envoy's role. I'll take that on notice. I don't know whether that's public.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay, we'll take that on notice. What kind of brief did Mr Entsch receive for his role as the reef envoy, and how is that brief provided?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I'm trying to think back as to whether we shared elements of the incoming government brief with Mr Entsch. In terms of a written briefing, I'll take that on notice. But certainly there was, early in Mr Entsch's engagement as the reef envoy, a series of verbal briefings with the department.</p>		
73.	1.2: KTD	Senator Van	<p>National Environmental Science Programme – feral cats</p>	<p>Senator VAN: As my colleagues will know, I have an interest in environment and science, especially where they intersect. I've got a couple of questions about the National Environmental Science Programme. I note that 271 projects have previously been approved through that program, with 78 projects completed. Are you able to give me an example of one of those projects?</p> <p>Dr Post: I certainly can give you an example. Our Northern Australia Environmental Research Hub has completed a project on mapping to underpin the management of littoral rainforest. They've also completed a number of projects in Kakadu, including investigating the role of feral cats in small mammal declines in Kakadu National Park. The list goes on.</p>	Page 76 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000410

				<p>I can provide those if required.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Has that led to a reduction of feral cats in the park or is it too soon?</p> <p>Dr Post: I'll perhaps let one of my colleagues answer that specifically.</p> <p>Senator VAN: You can take that on notice. Have any projects for this financial year been approved?</p> <p>Dr Post: There are a number of new projects that we're working through right now with our final revision for the research plan, so, yes, there have been. That's in the final stages of completion.</p> <p>Senator VAN: Thank you.</p>		
74.	1.2: KTD	Senator Rice	National environmental science program	<p>Will the government renew and expand the national environmental science program that expires in June 2021?</p> <p>Would the government consider establishing a biosecurity hub for the new science program after June 2021 that will address the currently poorly funded research needs of environmental biosecurity that could lower the environmental impact from pests, weeds and diseases and to prevent new pests and diseases from establishing?</p>	Written	SQ19-000520
75.	1.2: KTD	Senator Waters	Fracking in central Queensland	<p>The Queensland Government has announced plans to open 30,000 sq km of the Surat, Bowen and Galilee Basins for gas exploration.</p> <p>Has the Department been consulted by any of the following organisations in relation to potential environmental implications of gas extraction in the region:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the Queensland Government; gas and mineral exploration companies; the Minister for Resources; the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility; Geoscience Australia. <p>Please provide details of any consultation, including who</p>	Written	SQ19-000537

				<p>contacted the Department, who attended any meetings, when they took place, and what was discussed.</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken any analysis of the potential impact of gas exploration in the Galilee Basin on groundwater resources? Has this analysis taken account of cumulative impacts associated with approved mining projects in the basin region? Please provide a copy of any analysis undertaken.</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken or commissioned any analysis regarding the impact of gas extraction within the Surat, Bowen and Galilee basins on Australia's capacity to meet its Paris Agreement commitments? If so, please provide that analysis.</p>		
76.	1.4: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Grasslands listing process	<p>Mr Richardson: Just to clarify, during the listing reassessment there is a public comment period which is required under the act. We had a number of submissions come in and I am certainly happy to share the list of those. Post the listing outcome is I thought where your question was going—about who had contacted the department following the listing coming into effect. I have outlined the NFF. I don't believe the New South Wales Farmers Federation at the time, post listing, contacted us. I'll take on notice who else has contacted us about that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So from your point of view it was just the NFF?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: We initiated a conversation with the NFF in order to finalise that post-listing information guide for farmers. That was in that period of a few months of that listing taking effect.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you're not aware that there were any individual farmers that contacted the department about the grasslands listing?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: Sorry—that contacted my area of the department. I can't talk on behalf of the whole department.</p>	Page 70 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000406

77.	1.4: BCD	Senator Urquhart	Natural Heritage Trust special account	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you outline what has been the trend in the Natural Heritage Trust special account from 2013, when the government took office, through to the forward estimates?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: I don't have the numbers back to 2013. I flipped over the page—if we look forward to 2028, it gradually goes up again. In 2023-24 it is 186.32. In 2024 it's 186.154 and then up to 196.708 in 2028-29. So it is increasing again. Part of the reason for those ebbs and flows, I guess, is that some funds have been removed from the NHT to other appropriations—for example, some funds got transferred to Prime Minister and Cabinet for the Indigenous Protected Areas funds, which were historically within the NHT and those funds have moved around. While remaining relatively stable, they're in a different appropriation.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. So are you able to take on notice that trend from 2013 and provide that to us?</p> <p>Ms Campbell: Yes.</p>	Page 80 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000416
78.	1.4: BCD	Senator Farrell	Grassland Earless Dragon	<p>Can the Department of Environment and Energy please provide an overview of funding that has been allocated to the recovery of the Grassland Earless Dragon since 2013.</p> <p>What work is the Department undertaking to ensure the protection of critical habitat for the Grassland Earless Dragon?</p>	Written	SQ19-000532
79.	1.4: BCD	Senator Farrell	Completed recovery plans	How many threatened species and ecological communities require a recovery plan? Of those, how many plans have been completed since 2013?	Written	SQ19-000533
80.	1.4: BCD	Senator Farrell	Status of recovery plans	I refer to previous statements by the Department of Environment and Energy at April 2019 estimates, that indicated the government was “actively working on drafting and finalising 14 threatened species recovery plans for the Scientific Committee to consider and recommend to the Minister for ‘making’ under the EPBC Act.” What is the	Written	SQ19-000534

				status of these plans? What is the status of the recovery plans for the remaining 166 species?		
81.	1.4: BCD	Senator Farrell	FTE staff working on recovery plans and listings	<p>What is the total FTE staff currently working on Threatened Species Recovery Planning, for each year since 2013?</p> <p>What is the total FTE staff currently working on Threatened Species Listings, for each year since 2013?</p>	Written	SQ19-000535
82.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Leadbeater's Possum	<p>What is the current status of the Leadbeater's Possum Recovery Plan?</p> <p>When will a Recovery Plan be finalised for this species?</p> <p>What advice was provided about the Recovery Plan by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to the Minister following the confirmation of the species status as critically endangered?</p>	Written	SQ19-000521
83.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Swift Parrot	<p>What is the current status of the draft Recovery Plan for the Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>)?</p> <p>When is it anticipated that this Recovery Plan will be finalised?</p> <p>The draft Recovery Plan discusses threats and goes into detail about habitat loss including through forestry practices, stating "the ongoing logging of breeding habitat remains a threat to the species' persistence in the wild". It says that the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement under which logging is permitted is "considered to be consistent with the requirements for threatened species protection and recovery that otherwise might apply under the EPBC Act (1999)".</p> <p>a. How does the Department reconcile the issues arising from the exemption from the EPBC Act (1999) for logging activities occurring under RFAs, given the evidence that the ongoing loss of breeding and foraging</p>	Written	SQ19-000522

				<p>habitat through forestry operations is a major threat to the survival of the Swift Parrot?</p> <p>b. Will the final Recovery Plan consider the specific and ongoing impacts of logging and habitat destruction under the RFAs relevant to Swift Parrot habitat in Tasmania and on the mainland?</p> <p>c. How will the final Recovery Plan achieve its strategy to “Manage and protect known Swift Parrot breeding and foraging habitat at the landscape scale” while the RFAs are in place and exempt from the requirements of the EPBC Act (1999)?</p> <p>The draft Recovery Plan states that “The extent of forest loss over Swift Parrot foraging habitat on the mainland has not been quantified and the impacts from commercial logging operations on the mainland remain uncertain.” [p12]</p> <p>a. Will the final Recovery Plan include quantified and updated evidence of logging activity and impact on mainland foraging habitat?</p> <p>b. Why are the impacts of logging on mainland foraging habitat “uncertain”?</p> <p>Can you provide an update on the costing of this Recovery Plan, and will the public consultation process include the opportunity for public comment on the funding allocation?</p>		
84.	1.4: EAD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Export of hammerhead sharks to a French aquarium	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can I ask a couple of questions on wildlife trade? Can you take those ones on notice? The <i>Guardian</i> recently reported that 30 hammerhead sharks captured on the Great Barrier Reef and exported to a French aquarium over an eight-year period had all died in captivity. Are you aware of that media report?</p> <p>Ms Vickery: No.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: You are not aware of that? Are you aware of that issue?</p> <p>Ms Vickery: I'm not aware of it. I've just been in the job literally a couple of weeks. Our previous general manager</p>	Page 87 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000417

				moved on. I would have to take that on notice. I apologise.		
85.	1.4: EAD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Wildlife trade	<p>How many hammerhead sharks have been exported live in the past ten years?</p> <p>How many of these have died in overseas aquariums?</p> <p>Does the government have a process for tracking the fate of wildlife that is traded?</p> <p>Is the government reviewing approvals for the export of hammerhead sharks?</p>	Written	SQ19-000565
86.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Green	Role of the special envoy	<p>Senator Hume: Thank you. As you'd know, Senator Green, the Hon. Warren Entsch was appointed Special Envoy to the Great Barrier Reef because of not just his geographical location but obviously a longstanding interest since his election in 1996 to the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>...</p> <p>In addition, his role involves advocacy and community engagement in support of the government's policies and programs, including supporting the implementation of the jointly managed Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan with the Queensland government, engagement with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's local marine advisory committees and reef guardians program and also to provide biannual updates in the form of written reports to the minister and assistant minister to support decision-making and convey community and industry views to government, as well as supporting Minister Ley on other any matters, as requested from time to time..</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Those biannual reports will be provided to the minister? Will they be tabled in parliament?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can take that on notice.</p>	Page 55 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000405
87.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Waters	World Heritage Committee	<p>Senator WATERS: My understanding is that at the last meeting of the World Heritage Committee, the 43rd session,</p>	Page 66-67 Monday 21	SQ19-000407

			<p>meeting</p>	<p>it was reported that you, heading our country's delegation, made an intervention on climate change. It's reported that you stated, 'We would not expect to see propositions that climate change threats would form the basis of an 'in danger' listing of individual properties because this is a global problem not amenable to site-specific intervention. Did you say that, Mr Oxley?'</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Yes, I did, as part of a wider intervention in relation to the lack of progress in the World Heritage Committee in the revision of the World Heritage Committee's 2007 climate policy. The previous year, at the committee meeting in Bahrain, Australia made an intervention to ask that that climate policy be updated, including through consultation with states parties—the countries that are signatories to the convention and civil society, so NGOs and other interested parties—for consideration at the meeting in Baku this year. In a sort of colloquial assessment, the World Heritage Centre spun its wheels for 12 months in processing and the review wasn't done. So I was expressing some frustration at the lack of progress on that climate policy review and, absent progress, I set out some of the questions, issues and considerations that I thought should be taken into account in the process of reviewing that policy. I'd be happy, if it's helpful for the committee, either to provide on notice or to table the full text of my intervention.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Certainly I'll be happy to receive that, because it was reported as Australia arguing that climate change wasn't relevant for the status of World Heritage sites. Certainly that is how many folk have interpreted it.</p>	<p>October</p>	
88.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Green	<p>Great Barrier Reef Foundation - in kind contributions</p>	<p>Senator GREEN: What do you mean by in-kind contributions?</p> <p>Ms Callister: It's a pretty standard approach. It means that when they give money to people that they're delivering programs with—so they give grand funding, for example, to organisations or community groups—they also co-contribute</p>	<p>Page 76-77 Monday 21 October</p>	SQ19-000599

				<p>to it. Sometimes it can be in terms of, say, staffing; it can be in terms of office facilities; it can actually be cash as well. So there can be a whole range of different ways that they can co-contribute to make the projects larger. Basically, these projects don't happen just simply on the basis of the money that's being provided through the Reef Trust partnership.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Have they broken it down in the report to you about what type of in-kind investment they received?</p> <p>Ms Callister: I haven't got those details with me, so I'd have to look at their reports and give you more information if they have broken it down.</p>		
89.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Green	Great Barrier Reef Foundation recruitment processes	<p>Senator GREEN: Do you know how the foundation advertises for positions?</p> <p>Ms Callister: I think they use a range of standard processes to advertise for positions, including things such as Seek and other standard processes for recruiting.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: If it's helpful, we can come back on notice and give you an answer informed by a discussion with the foundation directly on that question.</p>	Page 77 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000411
90.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Green	Dr Peter Ridd and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation	<p>Senator GREEN: What is the interaction, then, between the foundation and Dr Peter Ridd?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I'm not aware of any, Senator.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: You're not aware of any interactions?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We can take that on notice and go back to the foundation to provide whatever answer we can to that question.</p>	Page 78 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000412
91.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Great Barrier Reef Foundation - email from the Department	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I think that committee which I chaired explored that, Mr Oxley. I don't think we need to go down that road again. Can I ask a supplementary question on the same topic. We asked—I'd ask you to confirm this, Mr Knudson, but I missed following the second question up. The Auditor-General established that an email from the department is what set the whole process off around the grant. I'm happy to put this in more detail to you on notice if</p>	Page 79 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000413

				<p>you don't remember. You confirmed that was the case at the last estimates. Can you tell us who sent that email from the department?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm having difficulty recalling my answer at last estimates, so I'm probably wise to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: All right—I'll put it in writing. The Auditor-General set out a timeline which basically said that the email from the department said basically 'You need to do something to avoid an endangered listing'—a world heritage endangered listing. I asked them that and they confirmed that. I've asked you and I'll get that transcript, but I would just be interested in who actually sent that email.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I will take that on notice.</p>		
92.	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Cradle Mountain Master Plan consultation	<p>Senator McKIM: I wanted to ask some questions in relation to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area and specifically a proposal for a cable car to Dove Lake inside the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and also as I said inside the TWWHA. I'll just start by asking whether the department is formally aware of the proposal for a cable car to Dove Lake?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: The answer to that question is, yes.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: How did the department become formally aware of that proposal?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I couldn't off the top of my head remember now how we became aware, but we are aware of it.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Perhaps if you could take that on notice, Mr Oxley, that would be much appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: And also the date on which the department became aware. Was the department consulted during the development of the Cradle Mountain Master Plan?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I'd have to take that on notice. We were advised that officers involved in outcome 1.4, which would be where this is probably to be addressed, weren't required after the afternoon tea break.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: My apologies. Given that, perhaps if Mr</p>	Page 88 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000414

				<p>Knudsen is happy, I'll put the questions anyway. If the relevant officers are not here, I'm very relaxed about you taking them on notice.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: It's either that or we can just take them on notice, whichever way you want to do it.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: I suspect some of them may cross over. I'll keep asking, if that's all right. So, you're going to take on notice whether you were consulted during the development of the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. Is anyone at the table aware of the transportation study that's being conducted by the Tasmanian Office of Coordinator General? That's a study into transportation options for visitors to the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park inside the TWWHA.</p>		
93.	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	Cradle Mountain – cable car proposal	<p>Senator McKIM: Is the department aware, though, that the proposal for the cable car does not follow the route of the road and in fact goes through a different part of the park which currently has no built infrastructure in it, apart from I guess a pad or a track?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I think we'll take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Are you aware as to the timeframes of the transportation study? My advice is that it was due last year but still hasn't been completed. I guess a corollary to that question is: is the department involved in any way in that transportation study?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Again, on notice.</p>	Page 89 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000415
94.	1.4: HRMD	Senator McKim	The Cradle Mountain Master Plan	<p>Senator McKIM: The Cradle Mountain Master Plan has been supported through \$60 million worth of commitments—\$30 million from the Tasmanian government and \$30 million from the federal government. That was committed to by former Prime Minister Turnbull during the Braddon by-election caused by section 44 issues for the member for Braddon. Is the department aware of the criteria around that \$30 million commitment from the federal government? Are there any caveats on that?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I do not believe we had anything to do with</p>	Page 89 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000419

				<p>that.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We'll take the awareness question on notice. If we have visibility of the criteria, we will indicate that.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: It's a community development grant, which obviously your department does not administer; that's correct, is it not?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That is correct. Other than the community environment program, which is of a significantly smaller scale. It's a different department.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Yes, that's right. I'll put the rest of those questions on notice.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I might just give one very quick indication to say that a proposal of the significance that that cable car will constitute is a project that would need to be referred and assessed under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: Can I just confirm that that has not happened to date?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: No.</p> <p>Mr McNee: I'm not aware of a referral for that cable car at this stage.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We will come back to you on notice.</p>		
95.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Hanson-Young	Assessment of World Heritage values for the Great Australian Bight	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I have a final question and then I'm happy to put other things on notice. I am just wondering whether the Commonwealth government is doing an assessment of World Heritage values for the Great Australian Bight?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: The answer is, so far as I'm aware, no, but we can take that on notice to make that a definitive no, if you like?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Please do. I'd also like to know, if not, why not? It's a pretty special place.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We'll take that on notice as well.</p>	Page 91 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000420
96.	1.4: HRMD	Senator Waters	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia	Areas within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (formerly known as the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia)) were burned in bushfires in NSW and	Written	SQ19-000531

				<p>Queensland in September 2019.</p> <p>What is the total area burned within the World Heritage property?</p> <p>Has an assessment been made of the impact of the recent bushfires on the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage property?</p> <p>Has any advice been provided to the World Heritage Committee regarding the recent bushfires?</p> <p>Does the Department agree that climate change will increase the likelihood, frequency, and severity of bushfires in the region of the World Heritage property?</p> <p>What actions is the Department taking to minimise the risk of future bushfire damage to the World Heritage property?</p>		
97.	1.5: BCD	Senator Rice	Victoria's RFAs	<p>In relation to the Memorandum of Understanding for extension of Victoria's RFAs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What analysis has the Department undertaken of environmental impacts of activities under the RFAs? Does the Department have any estimates of the conservation outcomes that would have been achieved if the RFAs were not in place? b. What on-site audits have been conducted? On which dates and in which locations? c. When was advice provided to the Minister in relation to the environmental risks of extending the RFAs? d. What meetings have taken place between Victorian and Commonwealth officials in relation to the extension of the RFAs? What level was the Department of the Environment and Energy represented at in those meetings (eg. Secretary, Deputy Secretary, other SES)? e. Has draft documentation for a extension been prepared, or provided to the Minister? If yes: 	Written	SQ19-000524

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What timeframes are proposed for the extension? • What conditions will be imposed under the extension? • What activities will be permitted under the RFA? <p>What public consultation has been undertaken by the Federal Government in relation to the extension of the RFAs?</p>		
98.	1.5: BCD	Senator Farrell	Grasslands - meeting	<p>In refer to the meeting that took place on 20 March 2017 with Minister Taylor, Department officials and an adviser from Minister Frydenberg's office.</p> <p>Was anyone from the DoEE who attended the meeting directed not to take note?</p> <p>Did anyone take notes in the meeting?</p> <p>Did Minister Taylor express a view about the conditions and thresholds for spraying critically endangered grasslands at the meeting?</p>	Written	SQ19-000551
99.	1.5: EAD	Senator Urquhart	EPBC Act – staff working on assessments	<p>Ms Croker: Senator, your question was about how many staff we have working on assessments?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes. Mr Knudson said it was about 60. I'm interested to find out how many there were last year and the year before, and whether you can provide that figure for each year since 2013. If you don't have it, I'm happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Croker: As of August 2019 we had 63.7 full-time equivalent staff. I only have the numbers going back to December 2018. The total number of staff working on assessments, full-time equivalent, was 56.6. As for those remaining numbers, I'll take them on notice.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I think there's another point that needs to be made in relation to your response; whether that results in further answers on notice, I don't know. We're talking specifically here about assessments and the EPBC Act—</p>	Page 60 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000423

				<p>where there are matters referred where there is a potential impact on matters of national environmental significance. The department does quite a wide range of assessment tasks under the EPBC Act that go to assessment of wildlife trade permits and fisheries. The list goes on—as well as staff in line areas, such as mine, providing advice into the assessment process in relation to matters of national environmental significance, such as the Great Barrier Reef, World Heritage and national heritage. It is quite a comprehensive and complex picture, depending on what information you are seeking.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me what the average number of applications each year is?</p> <p>Ms Croker: The number of referrals that we received under the EPBC Act in 2018-19 was 220. I can go back to 2017-18. We had 240 referrals received. In 2016-17 we had 249. In 2015-16 we had 209, and in 2014-15 we had 225.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it's around that similar number each year. Has the number of staff assessing the applications gone up or down?</p> <p>Ms Croker: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me what the staff turnover rate in the act assessment area is, each year?</p> <p>Ms Croker: I'd have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I used to run that area; Mr Tregurtha used to run it after that. There's a number who are very long serving, dedicated staff. They're very demanding jobs, so we find that there's a decent level of turnover. That's a good thing, quite frankly, because you want that mixture of skill sets. We'll come back on the numbers behind that as well.</p>		
100.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	North Galilee Water Scheme referral – meetings with the Adani CEO	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes, thank you. I'll go to some specific matters now. Since 18 May—the election, obviously—how many meetings has the minister or her advisers had with representatives of Adani regarding the North Galilee Water Scheme referral? What were the dates and who went along to those meetings?</p>	Page 83 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000424

				<p>Mr McNee: I'll have to take that on notice. I've only recently been in the role.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. I have the same question for meetings that the department may have had.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: On that—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: On that particular referral.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Mr McNee, do you know?</p> <p>Mr McNee: I'm not sure of that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: For example, have you had any yourself, Mr McNee?</p> <p>Mr McNee: Sorry, I might have misunderstood your question. We've had a number of meetings with representatives from Adani that relate to the North Galilee Water Scheme.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: A number? Could you let me know, roughly, the dates of those.</p> <p>Mr McNee: I don't have those dates with me but I'd be happy to provide them on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay, if you could take that on notice. Did the minister, her advisers or officers from the department meet with the Adani CEO, Lucas Dow, between 14 and 18 October this year? It was only last week, so hopefully your memories can serve you okay.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Thank you for that. I was thinking, 'God, that was a long time ago.' Okay, it was only last week, so I certainly haven't. I don't know whether anyone else has. No? So we'll just confirm about the minister and the minister's office, but departmental officials haven't.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. That would be great. If the answer is yes, I'm interested in the purpose of the meeting and the agenda, minutes and anything else that can be provided.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I understand.</p>		
101.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Adani mine – management plans and	<p>Senator WATERS: Could I ask you to take on notice a list of the status of all of the management plans and strategies required under the EPBC Act approval conditions for the</p>	Page 83 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000425

			strategies	mine. Mr Knudson: For the mine, yes.		
102.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Adani - offsets	Mr Manning: Yes, that's right, and there's also the other Adani projects—the North Galilee Basin Rail et cetera. There is a number of residual bits of offsets required. Senator WATERS: Can you provide me all of that detail on notice for all of the approvals or permits required. Mr Knudson: Everything related to offsets? Senator WATERS: Related to offsets and where they've been secured. Mr Manning: We can do that.	Page 84 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000426
103.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Adani permit conditions – biodiversity fund	Senator WATERS: Usually to the state, that's right. Adani permit conditions 16 and 17 require a biodiversity fund to be established and evidence of \$100,000 being deposited before commencement of operations. Was the department consulted regarding the structure and operation of the fund, and has there been any evidence provided that the \$100,000 has been deposited and, if so, when? Mr Manning: We worked quite thoroughly with the company in relation to the requirements of that fund prior to approving it as meeting the requirements of those conditions. We put quite a lot of effort into that with the company and since we approved the fund, as satisfying those requirements, they have provided a notification that they have made that first payment to the department. Senator WATERS: Of the full amount? Mr Manning: Yes, the \$100,000 for the first year. Senator WATERS: When did they do that? Mr Manning: I would have to take that on notice. It was much earlier this year; six months ago approximately.	Page 84-85 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000427
104.	1.5: EAD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Non-detrimental finding – the hammerhead shark	Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you. I have a couple of quick questions. I understand I have only got 10 minutes all-up. As to CITES and the status of the scalloped, great and smooth hammerhead sharks, they are listed under Appendix	Page 86-87 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000429

				<p>2 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Apparently Appendix 2 includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction but for which trade must be controlled in order to preserve populations. I understand the Australian CITES scientific authority undertook an assessment of the hammerhead shark harvest and export levels in September 2014, and a non-detriment finding was made so long as specified catch limits were adhered to. The Threatened Species Committee recommended a review of the non-detriment finding for hammerhead sharks additional to that. Has the department committed to a review of the non-detrimental finding?</p> <p>Ms Croker: I will have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you tell us when the Threatened Species Scientific Committee did recommend the non-detriment finding for hammerhead sharks?</p> <p>Ms Croker: I am sorry. I don't have that information. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: The Threatened Species Scientific Committee does not recommend or make a non-detriment finding. That is a task—</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: No, it recommended a review of that. You don't know when that recommendation was made?</p> <p>Ms Vickery: No, I don't.</p>		
105.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	EPBC approvals – extensions for requirements to comply with offsets	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The number I have here is EPBC approval 2009/5252.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is it normal to give extensions for requirements to comply with offsets? How often would that occur?</p> <p>Mr Manning: It's a question in a post-approval space. Conditions are set. Proponents will often approach us to seek a variation to those conditions for a whole range of operational reasons that just transpire over the course of projects getting underway. That will on occasion include</p>	Page 90 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000431

				<p>offsets, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you know whether this particular project has been given extensions or variations?</p> <p>Mr Manning: I don't. I'm sorry. That one is not on my radar specifically.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Manning: Yes, happy to.</p>		
106.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Glencore mining	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you also take on notice as to whether the department is aware of Glencore mining underneath their biodiversity offsets?</p> <p>Mr Manning: Yes, I can take that on notice.</p>	Page 91 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000432
107.	1.5: EAD	Senator Farrell	Approvals under the EPBC Act	<p>What is the average length of time that it takes to assess an application under the EPBC Act? What was it each year since 2013?</p> <p>Has the average length of time taken to assess applications under the EPBC Act increased since 2014?</p> <p>How many staff work on assessing applications under the EPBC Act? Please provide the number of staff for each year since 2013.</p> <p>What is the average number of applications the DoEE receive each year for approval under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>Has the number of staff assessing EPBC Act applications gone up or down since 2013?</p> <p>What is the staff turnover rate in the EPBC Act assessment area of the DoEE each year since 2013?</p>	Written	SQ19-000538
108.	1.5: EAD	Senator Farrell	Wind turbines - proposals	<p>How many projects requiring approval under the EPBC Act, involving proposals for the establishment of wind turbines, has the Department received since 2013? Please provide a breakdown of this figure for each year since 2013. Of these</p>	Written	SQ19-000539

				proposals, how many were not approved? Please provide a statement of reasons for a decision that is clearly unacceptable under the EPBC Act for each project.		
109.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Waratah Coal Galilee Project	<p>Recent reports indicate that Waratah Coal intends to resume activity in relation to the Galilee Coal Project (EPBC 2009/4737).</p> <p>Is the approval granted by the Minister for the Environment for the Galilee Coal Project (<i>the Project</i>) on 19 December 2013 still valid and operational?</p> <p>Are there any conditions that must be satisfied before the Project can lawfully commence? If so, have those conditions been complied with to the satisfaction of the Department?</p> <p>Has the Department received written notice from the proponent that the Project has commenced? If so, on what date was the notice received and on what date did the notice state that the Project commenced?</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken any analysis of the cumulative impact of the Project, the Adani Carmichael Mine and other approved and proposed mining projects within the Galilee Basin on groundwater resources or surface water quality? Please provide a copy of any analysis undertaken.</p>	Written	SQ19-000540
110.	1.5: EAD	Senator Faruqi	Whitehaven Coal	<p>Following the investigation into Whitehaven's Maules Ck coal mine near Boggabri by the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator, which concluded that the mine lacks the requisite entitlements on its water access licence for its take, has the Federal Government commenced, or plans to commence, an investigation into possible breaches of the Federal Water Act 2007 or the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and associated regulations?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide details.</p>	Written	SQ19-000541

				<p>b. If not, why not?</p> <p>Noting that the NSW Resources Regulator suspended an exploration licence (EL6243) that is held by Whitehaven Coal as part of its Narrabri underground mine, has the Federal Environment Department conducted an investigation to ascertain whether there was any harm to federally listed species by construction of unauthorised tracks leading to ‘significant environmental harm’ on the eastern edge of the Pilliga forest?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide details. b. If not, why not?</p> <p>Will the Federal Government rule out approving the Dendrobium expansion under the EPBC Act 1999 due to the severe risks that have been identified to Sydney’s water, given the storages have now fallen to below 50%?</p> <p>a. If not, what is the justification?</p> <p>Will the Federal Government formally respond to the WaterNSW submission to the proposed Dendrobium expansion, which suggested that the expansion would lead to the loss of 3.3 billion litres per year of water from the catchment and would put two key water storages, Avon and Cordeaux Dams, at risk of cracking?</p> <p>a. Does the Department agree with these concerns?</p>		
111.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Glencore Ulan Coal Mine	<p>In relation to Glencore Ulan Coal Mine (EPBC approval 2009/5252) does the Department know if Glencore is mining underneath their biodiversity offsets? If yes:</p> <p>a. Is that expected to have ecological impacts on the offsets? b. Are there expected to be subsidence issues associated with the underground mining?</p> <p>Is it normal to give 8 extensions for the requirement to secure offsets in an approval?</p>	Written	SQ19-000542

				<p>Why has it taken Glencore nearly a decade to secure their offsets in perpetuity?</p> <p>Is it usual for a proponent to take 9 years to secure their offsets?</p> <p>Why didn't Glencore secure the offsets with BioBanking as was the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's preference between 2012 and 2015?</p> <p>Did the Department undertake any due diligence to determine whether Glencore was providing them with accurate and fulsome information before making the requested variations?</p> <p>Have you made variations to the conditions of other approvals held by Glencore or its subsidiaries?</p> <p>Have you made variations extending the deadline for offset conditions in any other mining operations in NSW? Can you outline what these are?</p> <p>How many variations have been made for EPBC approvals held by Glencore or its subsidiaries, and for which conditions and which approvals? Please provide a list.</p>		
112.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Deebing Hights	<p>In relation to the ABC 7.30 report into residential developments at Brookwater (by Springfield Land Corporation (EPBC 2016/7676) and Deebing Hights by Defence Housing Association (2016/7723), can the Department confirm that it formed the view that those sites contained habitat critical to the survival of the Koala?</p> <p>How did the department come to the conclusion that it would accept a markedly lower offset than what its policy and assessment guide outlined?</p>	Written	SQ19-000566

				<p>I note from the media coverage and documents in question that the department based its decision to go with an offsets that “Lacks consistency with the offsets policy” was based on precedence - can the department specify which project set this precedent?</p> <p>Can the Department provide this committee with the assessment report or recommendation report for that project? It should be on the public record.</p> <p>Does this mean that now any time you buckle as a regulator or lower standards, then that's the ‘bar’ for environmental outcomes, that each weaker decision sets the new standard?</p> <p>Can the department outline the number of projects it has used this unwritten precedence approach in its decision making?</p> <p>In your view does having one rule for one group of proponents and another for everyone else indicate that you are an effective or mature regulator?</p> <p>What steps is the Department taking to address the issues and concerns raised in the ABC’s 7.30 report?</p>		
113.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	NSW Dams	<p>Can the Department outline what discussion it has had with the NSW government in relation to new dam proposals - particularly Dungowan, Wyangala and Mole River Dams?</p> <p>How will the Department handle these proposals under the EPBC Act?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given the NSW Government is moving special legislation for these dams, will the bilateral agreement apply? <p>The Environment Minister has indicated she intends to deal</p>	Written	SQ19-000567

				<p>directly with these proposal so there are “no unnecessary hold-ups” - could you elaborate what an “unnecessary hold up” may be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The environmental impacts from dam projects are significant and complex - how will the department handle the data collection and impact assessment process – given the political pressure to fast track these proposals? - Can the Department provide a list of all meetings with NSW Government officials in which the Dungowan, Wyangala and Mole River Dams were discussed in relation to the application of the EPBC Act? 		
114.	1.5: EAD	Senator Pratt	2010 Master Plan to develop Jandakot Airport	<p>Is the Department of Energy and Environment aware that Jandakot Airport Holdings (JAH) has approval for a 2010 Master Plan to develop Jandakot Airport?</p> <p>Is the Department of Energy and Environment aware that one of the conditions (3(a)) associated with the environmental approval from the Department to implement the 2010 Master Plan to develop Jandakot Airport requires JAH to conserve, in perpetuity, a 119ha parcel of bushland in Conservation Precincts 1A, 1B, and 2 which consists of the Commonwealth-listed Threatened Banksia woodland ecosystem and supports Commonwealth-listed Threatened species Carnaby’s Cockatoo and Grand Spider Orchid, three Matters of National Environmental Significance, and that JAH agreed to that condition?</p> <p>Is the Department of Energy and Environment aware that JAH has re-named Conservation Precincts A, 1B, and 2 as part of an effort to obfuscate the matter and give the impression it is not contravening its condition to not clear any of this land (ever)?</p>	Written	SQ19-000568

				<p>Does the Department of Energy and Environment agree that clearing 76ha (or any) of the vegetation in Conservation Precincts A, 1B, and 2, as proposed in JAH's proposed 2020 Master Plan, would be contrary to the environmental approval associated with the approved 2010 Master Plan, and should not be permitted.</p> <p>Can the Department of Energy and Environment advise whether JAH has held any discussions with the Department or the Jandakot Airport Environment Officer regarding its 2020 Master Plan, when these occurred, and what the outcome of those discussions were with respect to clearing vegetation in Conservation Precincts A, 1B, and 2.</p>		
115.	1.5: EAD	Senator Rice	Melbourne Strategic Assessment	<p>If the Victorian Government has not purchased all the land for the proposed Western Grassland Reserve by 2020 as committed through the Melbourne Strategic Assessment (MSA) will this be in breach of any MSA requirements or legislative requirements? If it will be in breach, which sections of these requirements?</p> <p>a. How does the Department intend to ensure compliance?</p> <p>b. What action will the Department take if the target is not met?</p> <p>Has Victoria (government or DELWP) had any discussion or communication with the Department about its impending failure to meet its WGR land purchase commitment in the last 18 months, and did the Department provide Victoria with any advice on how it must act in response to this failure, especially in relation to the Victorian Government's <i>Melbourne Strategic Assessment (Environment Mitigation Levy) Bill</i>?</p> <p>Has the Department at any point undertaken risk analysis of the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program?</p> <p>a. If so, when was the report completed? Please provide a</p>	Written	SQ19-000525

			<p>copy of the report.</p> <p>b. Did the risk analysis consider the risks that Victoria would not purchase land for the Western Grasslands Reserve by 2020? If yes, what steps were taken to mitigate that risk?</p> <p>c. Please provide a copy of the risk analysis, and any strategy to mitigate identified risks.</p> <p>Does the Department have any responsibility to ensure the Victorian Government's compliance with its commitments under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program?</p> <p>a. How does it monitor compliance?</p> <p>b. Has the Department received any complaints in relation to the Melbourne Strategic Assessment, either from members of the public or other stakeholders?</p> <p>c. Has the Victorian Government passed on any reports of breaches, either of Commonwealth law or requirements or conditions under the Melbourne Strategic Assessments?</p> <p>d. Has the Commonwealth agreed with the Victorian Government to any amendments to activities and processes under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment framework?</p> <p>On what dates have Departmental officials undertaken observation activity in relation to the Western Grasslands Reserve under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment? Please provide a list of dates, locations, and the observations taken at each site.</p> <p>Please specify what reporting or observation the Department has undertaken, if any, either via information from Victorian government agencies, or through independent verification, in relation to each objective in tables 9-20 in the 2009 Melbourne Strategic Assessment Program Report</p> <p>The Monitoring and Reporting framework specifies on p. 13</p>		
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			<p>that the Victorian Government will “engage auditors” to “Provide reasonable assurance to the Commonwealth Government that the Program is being implemented in accordance with the Program Report”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide copies of any auditor reports that have been provided to the Department. b. What dates were the audits actually undertaken? What dates are future audits currently scheduled for? <p>The Monitoring and Reporting framework specifies on p. 14 that the Victorian Government will prepare a compliance strategy in consultation with the Commonwealth Government. Has the Department been consulted on a compliance strategy? If yes, what dates did consultation occur on? What information did the Department receive?</p> <p>Is the Melbourne Urban Development Policy still in effect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If no, when did it cease to have effect? On what authority was it terminated? What was the reason for terminating the policy? b. If yes, when was the most recent offset under the Melbourne Urban Development Policy? c. Please provide the relevant documents for the rationale underpinning the introduction of the Melbourne Urban Development Policy. d. What public or private consultation was undertaken before the introduction of the Melbourne Urban Development Policy? Please provide dates that particular stakeholders were consulted. e. What areas of offsets were directed to the Western Grasslands Reserve through the application of the policy? <p>What is the total area (in hectares) within the boundaries of the proposed Western Grassland Reserves that meet the Commonwealth’s criteria for endangered native temperate grasslands as described on page 22 of the Commonwealth</p>		
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			<p>publication <i>Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities of the Victorian Volcanic Plain: Natural Temperate Grassland & Grassy Eucalypt Woodland?</i></p> <p>a. What are the locations and area (hectares) of each of these patches within the boundaries of the proposed Western Grassland Reserves that meet the Commonwealth's criteria for endangered native temperate grasslands as described on page 22 of the Commonwealth publication <i>Nationally Threatened Ecological Communities of the Victorian Volcanic Plain: Natural Temperate Grassland & Grassy Eucalypt Woodland?</i></p> <p>b. What surveys does the Department rely on as a basis for these answers? Who did the surveys and when? How were these surveys conducted? Please provide the survey reports and maps showing the location of the grassland patches that meet these criteria. What other information does the Department rely on in knowing that the Western Grassland Reserves is protecting endangered native temperate grasslands?</p> <p>Has the Victorian Government provided the Department with any report from the Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning on its activities on the <i>Western Grasslands Reserve Weed Management Group</i>, especially in relation to weeds listed under the Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994?</p> <p>What area of the proposed Western Grassland Reserves is confirmed habitat of the golden sun moth? On what surveys is this figure based? Please provide a copy of any survey reports, or other information which has informed the Department's assessment.</p> <p>Does the Department have any economic analyses of the Western Grassland reserves? Please provide any copies of</p>		
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				any analyses.		
116.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Mount Lofty koala habitat	<p>A defence housing residential development at Mount Lofty in Queensland is being assessed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> on the basis of preliminary documentation (2018/8198). The land includes critical koala habitat, the last remaining koala population in the Groom shire.</p> <p>Please provide an update on the assessment process for this referral.</p> <p>When will public comment be invited?</p>	Written	SQ19-000553
117.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Adani – groundwater modelling	<p>The Groundwater Management Plan and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Management Plan for the Adani Carmichael mine were approved by the Commonwealth Minister on 9 April 2019. The modelling supporting the plans included a HydroSimulations hydrogeological model of the Galilee Basin, and part of a larger dataset informing the Bioregional Assessments for groundwater.</p> <p>While some datasets are available on the Department website, access to others, including the Doongmabulla Springs dataset, is restricted. Access requests made by scientists have been denied.</p> <p>How many GAL datasets are subject to restricted access?</p> <p>Why have restrictions been placed on access to those datasets?</p> <p>How many requests has the Department received for access to the datasets / input files?</p> <p>How many requests have been granted?</p>	Written	SQ19-000554

				<p>How many requests have been denied? On what grounds have requests been denied?</p> <p>Given that the model code has been delivered under a publicly-funded Commonwealth contract, will the Department release all input files, water level data, GIS data and Modflow files to allow independent experts to review and test the modelling?</p>		
118.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Adani Carmichael Mine	<p>An analysis by the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis in September 2019 concluded that Adani's Carmichael Mine would only be viable with \$4.4B in subsidies from the State and Commonwealth governments.</p> <p>Is the Department aware of this report? Has the Department sought or received a briefing from the IEEFA regarding that report?</p> <p>Given the fragility of Adani's financial position, does the Department have any concerns regarding Adani's capacity to undertake environmental management obligations? Has the Department factored these risks into requirements for financial contributions?</p>	Written	SQ19-000555
119.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	INPEX Ichthys project (North West Shelf Offshore Gas project)	<p>Condition 11 of the approval for the INPEX Ichthys project (2008/4208) requires the proponent to submit a Coastal Offset Strategy. That Strategy, which was approved by the Department in 2012, requires INPEX to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide \$24 million over 22 years to the Northern Territory Government to implement the Western Top End Marine Megafauna Program; and • establish a marine reserve. <p>In responses to Questions on Notice during previous estimates, I was advised that work on the Megafauna program would commence in 2018/19, and consultation was ongoing regarding the marine reserve.</p>	Written	SQ19-000556

				<p>Have any variations been made to the approval conditions for this project since 2017? If yes, please outline those variations.</p> <p>Please provide an update on work undertaken to deliver the Top End Marine Megafauna Program.</p> <p>Has INPEX provided funding for implementation of the Top End Marine Megafauna Program?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If yes, when was this funding provided and how much money has been provided? If no, what action is the Department taking to ensure that INPEX provides funding for the Program? <p>Please provide an update on the establishment of a marine reserve. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Who was consulted during stakeholder engagement regarding the reserve? Has a final site been identified and secured? If yes, please provide details of the site What actions have been taken to declare the reserve? Has a management plan been established for the marine reserve? 		
120.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Kingvale Station vegetation clearing	<p>The preliminary documentation in relation to clearing of vegetation at Kingvale Station (EPBC 2016/7751) was available for public comment until 10 April 2019.</p> <p>Has the Department provided an approval decision brief to Minister Ley regarding this project?</p> <p>Has the Department or the Minister met with the proponent since the May 2019 election?</p>	Written	SQ19-000557
121.	1.5: EAD	Senator Farrell	EPBC approval 2016/7751	<p>In relation to EPBC Approval 2016/7751, can the Department of Environment and Energy provide the</p>	Written	SQ19-000569

				<p>following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the status of the project referral? b. Has the DoEE recommended a decision to the Minister? c. Please provide an outline of the threatened species fauna surveys that have been completed on the referred property. What work has been done to ensure these surveys align with the Department's guidelines for threatened species fauna surveys. d. Which Department officials, if any, have visited Kingvale Station located on the Cape York Peninsula in 2019? Please provide details about each visit, including the purpose of each visit, who attended and the date and time. e. Has anyone in the DoEE met with any Members of Parliament in relation to Kingvale Station in Queensland? If yes, please provide details of the meeting/s, including the nature of the meeting, the date, time and location of the meeting, and the attendees. f. To what extent will the prior convictions of the proponent relating to illegal landclearing under state legislation be taken into account when making a decision on this referral? 		
122.	1.5: EAD	Senator Waters	Toondah Harbour	<p>The Final EIS Guidelines for the Toondah Harbour Development (EPBC 2018/8225) were released in April 2019. When does the Department expect an EIS will be submitted by the developer?</p> <p>Have any officers from the Department met with representatives of Walker Corporation since June 2018? If so, please provide details about who initiated the meeting, who attended the meeting, when and where the meeting took place, and what was discussed.</p> <p>Has the department supported or facilitated (through introductions, meetings, travel) any engagements between representatives of Walker Corporation and the Ramsar</p>	Written	SQ19-000573

				<p>secretariat or any other international body? If so, please provide details of the support provided?</p> <p>Research published in Nature Communications in October 2019 (Serrano, O., Lovelock, C.E., B. Atwood, T. <i>et al.</i> “Australian vegetated coastal ecosystems as global hotspots for climate change mitigation”. <i>Nature Communications</i> v10, 4313 (2019)) found that Australia’s mangroves and tidal areas absorb up to 20M tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, and that degradation of these vegetated areas was releasing up to 3M tonnes of carbon dioxide each year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the Department sought information from Walker Corporation regarding carbon dioxide emissions associated with the loss of wetlands related to the development? If so, please provide any information provided. If no information has been requested, does the Department intend to seek that information? b. How, if at all, will the Department factor emissions resulting from the loss of wetland vegetation into its assessment of the Toondah Harbour development? c. Has any analysis been undertaken by or on behalf of the Department regarding the impact of the Toondah Harbour project or other projects involving large scale loss of wetlands and mangroves on Australia’s capacity to meet its Paris Agreement commitments? If so, please provide that analysis. If not, does the Department intend to undertake or commission such analysis? 		
123.	1.5: EAD	Senator Farrell	EPBC approval 2016/7838	<p>In relation to EPBC approval 2016/7838, can the DoEE provide the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who undertook the fauna survey that identified Greater Gliders at the site and what were their qualifications? b. How many hours were spent surveying for Greater Gliders at the site, and was the entire proposed clearing area surveyed? c. Has the department commenced an investigation into the 	Written	SQ19-000570

				<p>proponent after recent media reports about the alleged burning of land?</p> <p>d. What controlled action decisions have been made with a significant impact on the vulnerable Greater Glider? Please provide a list with details of the associated offset requirements for those impacts?</p>		
124.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Farrell	Ten-yearly EPBC Act Review	How much is the funding has been allocated to the ten-yearly EPBC Act Review? Please provide a breakdown of what this funding will be spent on.	Written	SQ19-000572
125.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Urquhart	EPBC Act Review - briefs requested and provided to the minister	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me how many briefs have been requested or provided to the minister in relation to the review?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: We'd have to take that on notice. We have certainly provided, obviously, more than one brief around the process to support the government in that respect, but we also provide a regular briefing for when there are stakeholder meetings and they'd like to discuss the upcoming review. It's touched on in a number of briefings.</p>	Page 59 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000421
126.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Hanson-Young	Dr Craik Review	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to go back to the original briefing that you gave when you transmitted the report to the minister. Which minister are we talking about—the environment minister or the agriculture minister or both?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: It was the environment minister—Minister Price at that time.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Was that a verbal briefing or a written briefing?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: It was a written briefing.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So there's a briefing document?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: We're required to transmit that to the minister. It was a report that the minister commissioned, so we received it from Dr Craik and formally transmitted it to the office.</p>	Page 82-83 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000422

				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you able to table the corresponding information?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: I'd have to take that on notice. I certainly don't have it with me.</p>		
127.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Rice	EPBC Review	<p>In preparing for the EPBC Review, has the Department undertaken any analysis of the implementation of recommendations from the previous EPBC Review?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide a copy.</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken any analysis in relation to monitoring of Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) to inform the work of the EPBC Review?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide copy of relevant documents prepared in anticipation of the Review.</p>	Written	SQ19-000523
128.	1.5: LCD	Senator Gallagher	Jam Land investigation	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Minister Frydenberg said that he became first aware of Minister Taylor's interest in the compliance action when Minister Taylor requested a meeting with the department. We are not quite sure on what date that request, because that is between two ministers, occurred. I accept that. But in terms of information that you provided to Minister Frydenberg's office in response to their request for information, which the earliest date we have for that is 15 February, would that have been the date that Minister Frydenberg became aware of the compliance action, from the department's point of view, in terms of your imparting information to Minister Frydenberg's office? On what date would that have occurred?</p> <p>Mrs Collins: I can't say specifically, but certainly we first wrote to the land owner in December, and then we were responding to a request in February. Obviously the minister's office was aware of it fairly soon. The nature of the advice provided to the minister's office in February was that the department was investigating an allegation and, as the matter is ongoing, it would be inappropriate to comment further.</p> <p>...</p>	Page 33-34 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000433

				<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Yes. So from your point of view, it was around the request in February, 15 February, that you would have confirmed to Minister Frydenberg that there was an investigation underway?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The only caveat on that that I would say is that it is a practice of that area that deals with approvals but also compliance to have fairly regular meetings with advisers to update on a range of projects. I suspect that between that initial writing to the land owner and February that you are pointing out in terms of some written correspondence there was probably some advising of the office in general on the range of matters that would have been in Mrs Collins' area.</p> <p>Senator GALLAGHER: Can you confirm whether that's the case?</p> <p>CHAIR: If you could take that on notice?</p> <p>Mrs Collins: We will take that on notice.</p>		
129.	1.5: LCD	Senator Urquhart	Staffing in the compliance division	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. Since late 2016 has anyone asked to be transferred out of, or left, the compliance division?</p> <p>Ms Collins: In terms of staff?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Collins: We've had the normal level of staff turnover in the compliance area, yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How many would have left?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I would have to take that number specifically on notice.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Senator, did you say since 2015?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: 2016.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I would imagine that almost all of the staff at one point or another would have turned over—a good portion of it given it's been three or four years. Anyway, we'll come back on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And did they give a reason? What was the reason?</p> <p>Ms Collins: Lots of reasons. People have been promoted. People have been gone to other jobs in other jurisdictions.</p>	Page 71 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000434

				<p>People take temporary reassignments of duties or ongoing reassignments of duties. People want to move interstate. So there is a very broad variety of reasons.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Maybe you can provide us with a bit more detail on notice.</p> <p>Ms Collins: I'll see if I can, but I'm not sure—</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We probably will not have that data. All we're going to have is anecdotal data. I can tell you that Ms Collins's predecessor is now heading up part of our energy area. People move for very different reasons, and we just don't keep track of that.</p>		
130.	1.5: LCD	Senator Urquhart	Minister Taylor's interest in Jam Land	<p>Senator URQUHART: You've stated previously in response to a question on notice—I'm sorry, I don't have that question number—that the department became aware of Minister Taylor's interest after seeing a <i>Weekly Times</i> article. Was that included in the advice provided to Mr Frydenberg's office?</p> <p>Ms Collins: I think that relates to—we became aware that there was the familial relationship. I don't think specifically we've advised the minister's office of that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You don't think, but can you check that, please.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm pretty certain it's not necessarily material how we became informed by an article. I've got the question on notice sitting in front of me, and it refers to it. The 27 May article—2015. So I can't see how that would have been material, but we will confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could confirm that, that would be great.</p>	Page 71-72 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000435
131.	1.5: LCD	Senator Waters	Ongoing compliance actions during the Jam Land investigation	<p>Senator WATERS: Just staying with this matter, we were speaking before the break about the length of the ongoing investigation. I note that in relation to a previous question on notice you said there were eight ongoing compliance actions that had begun in the same year that the Jam Land investigation had begun. How many of those are still</p>	Page 72 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000436

				ongoing? Ms Collins: I know that at least one of those was closed. There are a few more of those where we're close to compliance outcomes. But specifically I would have to take that on notice.		
132.	1.5: LCD	Senator Waters	Jam Land site visits	Senator WATERS: Okay. If I could ask for a follow-up on an earlier question. I had asked for the details of who had been at the site investigations for the four site visits? Did you have a chance to get those details? Ms Collins: I will take it on notice because I do want to check in to the issue of providing persons' names publicly.	Page 85 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000428
133.	1.5: LCD	Senator Hanson-Young	EPBC offset policy – list of projects	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The EPBC offset policy was scheduled to be reviewed in 2017. Did that review happen? Mr Knudson: Good question. I know obviously offsets will be a significant part of the consideration with respect to the review of the act. Mr Tregurtha: That review didn't happen. Basically, where the department got to was it was determined that the forthcoming review of the EPBC Act, given that it was basically a year and a half away from when we were going to start that project, would be a more efficient way of dealing with offsets at the same time we were looking at the policy as a whole. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So, that will be part of the terms of reference, I imagine? Mr Tregurtha: Certainly biodiversity offsets I expect to be a major focus of all of the submissions and the review itself. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can I ask you some questions on notice in relation to this? Are you able to provide a list of all projects that have biodiversity offsets attached to them and the general location of where those offsets are? Mr Knudson: As I said, that's about 2,000 projects and we'll have to sift through and find those for each individual assessment. I think we're just going to have to take that on notice, because that's potentially an incredibly laborious	Page 90 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000430

				<p>thing. I want to see whether we can find an efficient way to answer your question. I'm just not convinced that we will be able to.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perhaps this narrows it down as well, but I'm happy to have a conversation offline about how we can save time. I'm really interested to see what the broad scope is. I'm happy to talk about that. Perhaps this also can narrow the scope. Can the department provide a list of all offsets that have been inspected by compliance or monitoring staff? Surely that's a smaller list?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: On notice; it seems like that is possible.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: While I've still got a bit more time, can I go to the environmental offsets for Glencore in relation to their coalmine in the Hunter Valley?</p> <p>Ms Vickery: So is it their current referral?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The number I have here is EPBC approval 2009/5252.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That certainly sounds like a post-approval one from a decade ago.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, some nine years ago. I would like to know whether there has been any compliance or monitoring of this offset historically or recently?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Certainly we can deal with that one in the previous question we took on notice. We'll make sure that we highlight that one in particular.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Am I able to get a yes or a no just to that question now, if anyone has the answer to it without going into detail?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm just checking. Unfortunately we don't have that information here at the table.</p>		
134.	1.5: LCD	Senator Waters	Compliance investigation of Jam Land Pty Ltd	<p>During Senate estimates questions relating to the Jam Land Pty Ltd investigation, Ms Collins stated that she was “waiting on another final report before we finish off the case”.</p> <p>a. What is the nature of the final report?</p> <p>b. Who is preparing the report?</p>	Written	SQ19-000543

			<p>c. Will the report make any recommendations regarding the compliance outcomes for the case?</p> <p>d. If so, will the Department be bound by those recommendations?</p> <p>Has the Department sought legal advice in relation to any aspect of the Jam Land compliance investigation?</p> <p>Would you say that the Jam Land compliance investigation was treated differently to any other investigation undertaken by the Department? If yes, in what ways did the investigation differ?</p> <p>Of the compliance investigations commenced in 2016-2017, how many related to threatened species or threatened ecological communities?</p> <p>What is the current status of those investigations? If concluded, what was the outcome and what, if any, penalties were applied?</p> <p>How many compliance investigations into alleged breaches of the EPBC Act in relation to threatened species or threatened ecological communities are currently on foot?</p> <p>During Senate Estimates, Ms Monica Collins said:</p> <p>“[O]ne of the things we're trying to target is making sure that we only take on the number of compliance cases that we can actively manage through to a conclusion in a faster amount of time. So I suppose there is always going to be a balance between—if you have a lot more cases on your books, it might take longer to finish them or if you've got fewer cases.”</p> <p>In response to Senator Waters asking whether the Department was “not investigating breaches because you</p>		
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				<p>haven't been given the resources to do your job properly?", Ms Collins said:</p> <p>“With the resources we've got we've always got to prioritise, and we do a risk based approach to which compliance activities we take on.”</p> <p>Please provide the following information regarding the Department’s approach to compliance investigation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is the risk-based approach documented? If so, please provide copies of relevant documents. Does the threatened status of the species or ecological community affected by the alleged unlawful activity affect the risk assessment (that is, will impacts on a species with a higher threat status be given higher priority? In the past 3 years, how many complaints/compliance requests have been received by the Department? How many of these complaints relate to threatened species or threatened ecological communities? How many of these complaints have <u>not</u> progressed to a “compliance case” following a risk-based assessment? Does the Department, and the compliance section particularly, currently receive sufficient funding to undertake its functions effectively and efficiently? <p>Have any Landcare or other environmental grants been awarded to Jam Land Pty Ltd for the property that is currently under investigation in relation to unlawful clearing? If yes, please provide details of any grant, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> when it was provided how much has been granted the purpose of the grant the program under which the grant was provided. 		
135.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	FOI response timeframe	What is the average time the Department of Energy and Environment takes to complete an FOI request?	Written	SQ19-000544

136.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	FOI – consultation with the Minister	<p>I refer to Ms Tregurtha’s statement made in Senate Estimates in which she explains that the Department routinely provides the minister’s office “with a heads-up as to what documents are going to be released”. What advice does the Minister or the Minister’s office provide in response to the “heads-up”? Please provide details for both verbal and written correspondence.</p> <p>To what extent does the Minister or the Minister’s office have input into the FOI process, including exemptions and decisions?</p> <p>Has the Minister or the Minister’s office ever sought exemptions under the FOI Act around certain documents?</p> <p>If the Minister had concerns about certain documents requested through FOI, how would they express those concerns to FOI decisions makers within the Department of Environment and Energy?</p>	Written	SQ19-000545
137.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Failure to comply with the FOI Act	<p>I refer to statements made in senate estimates by Acting First Assistant Secretary Legal and Compliance Division, Ms Tregurtha, and Deputy Secretary Strategy and Operations Group, Mr Cahill in relation to knowledge of the Department of Environment and Energy’s failure to comply with the FOI Act. Please provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – When did Ms Tregurtha first become aware of the failure to comply with the requirement under the FOI Act to upload documents to the disclosure log within a certain timeframe? – When did Mr Cahill first become aware, and how was he made aware? – How many months had passed between Mr Cahill first becoming aware of the breach, and the 	Written	SQ19-000547

				<p>publication of the letter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What action was taken by Mr Cahill when he became aware of the failure to comply? - When did the Minister become aware of their Department's failure to comply FOI law? How was the Minister made aware, and by whom? <p>How many staff were redeployed to assist with uploading documents to the FOI disclosure log, and from what division/area were they deployed from?</p> <p>What disciplinary actions, if any, have been taken in respect of the DoEE's failure to comply with FOI law? What consequences, if any, has the DoEE, Minister or the Minister's office enacted for failure to comply with the FOI Act?</p> <p>How many times has the DoEE provided requested material outside of the legislated timeframe?</p> <p>Is it the DoEE's view that recording only a "summary of outcomes" for meetings, is adequate to comply with provisions set out in the APS Guidelines?</p>		
138.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Grasslands compliance investigation	<p>Minister Frydenberg/ Grasslands</p> <p>I refer to the compliance investigation involving a property part owned by Minister Taylor.</p> <p>I refer to Chief Compliance Officer, Mrs Collins' statement made in Senate Estimates (p.29) that on 28 July 2017 and 3 August 2017, the Department provided talking to Minister Frydenberg's office, in response to media reports. Please provide details of those media reports, including the nature of the report, and details pertaining to their publication and</p>	Written	SQ19-000548

				<p>author.</p> <p>I refer to Chief Compliance Officer, Mrs Collins’ statements made in the senate estimates hearing of October 21, 2019, in which she recounts that on 12 October 2017, the DoEE provided the minister a “general update of the investigation” involving Jam Land. What information was provided in this update to Minister Frydeneberg? Was information regarding any other compliance investigation also provided to the Minister?</p> <p>How many interactions did the Chief Compliance Officer, Mrs Monica Collins, have with the Minister’s office in relation to this compliance investigation?</p> <p>I refer to FOI documents obtained by the Guardian, in which Minister Frydenberg requests “urgent talking points” in relation to the compliance action involving a property part owned by Minister Taylor, after the matter was mentioned in Parliament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can the DoEE confirm that there is no record in Hansard of the case ever being raised in parliament around that time. – In relation to the request for talking points, Chief Compliance Officer, Mrs Collins said the her “recollection of that document is that it was on the basis of a phone call with somebody” (p.30). Can the DoEE provide details about this interaction, including any file notes relating to the call, what date the phone call was made (date and time), who was involved, and what the nature of the call was. – I refer to the Deputy Secretary, Mr Knudson’s statements made to senate estimates in which he states that “the mention from the minister’s office of 		
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				it [the compliance investigation involving Minister Taylor and the grasslands] being raised in parliament, that could very well have been a conversation between two members of the government in a hallway.” Can the Minister’s office confirm that the urgent talking points were requested on that basis?		
139.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Grasslands - investigation	I refer to the compliance action involving a property part owned by Minister Taylor. When is the compliance investigation expected to conclude? Will the outcome of that investigation be made public? When did the DoEE first make the Minister or the Minister’s office aware of the compliance investigation?	Written	SQ19-000549
140.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Grasslands - engagement	I refer to Ms Collins statement in relation to engagement program on the grasslands listing, in which she says the DoEE have been talking to landowners in the Monaro region. How many landowners has the DoEE been talking to?	Written	SQ19-000550
141.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Breaches of the EPBC Act	Can the Department of Environment and Energy please provide an overview of the total number of investigations currently being undertaken for potential breaches of the EPBC Act? Please break these down by category (i.e. agriculture, development, etc.)	Written	SQ19-000571
142.	1.5: PAID	Senator Farrell	Grasslands – conflict of interest	How does the Department define a “conflict of interest” and a “perceived conflict of interest”, and how does the Department manage each?	Written	SQ19-000552
143.	1.6: EAD	Senator Waters	Julia Creek – hazardous waste spills	In February 2019, a freight train carrying zinc, lead and copper anode was derailed during flooding at Nelia, east of Julia Creek, tipping 80 wagon-loads of hazardous minerals into floodwaters.	Written	SQ19-000577

				<p>Has the Department requested any information or advice from the Queensland Department of Environment and Science regarding this incident?</p> <p>If advice or information has been provided to the Department, please provide a copy.</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken or commissioned any analysis of the impact of the lead and zine contamination on species or ecological communities listed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> in the area of the spill?</p> <p>If analysis has been undertaken, what was the result of the analysis? What, if any, action has been taken in response to the analysis?</p>		
144.	1.6: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Inpex	<p>In relation to the Department infringing Inpex (a large gas company operating in the NT) for releasing the toxic chemical PFAS into Darwin Harbour, in April 2019:</p> <p>What did Inpex do to contravene condition 8 when they were infringed in March 2013?</p> <p>What did Van Oord do to contravene condition 8 when they were infringed in May 2014?</p> <p>Why wasn't Inpex infringed as the approval holder?</p> <p>Is this approval considered a high-risk approval?</p> <p>How closely do you monitor this approval for compliance?</p> <p>Before making variations to approvals, do you generally consider the compliance record of a proponent?</p> <p>How many of the six variations made to this approval were</p>	Written	SQ19-000580

				<p>prompted by Inpex?</p> <p>Did the Department consider the compliance record of Inpex (and their contractors) before varying the approval in October 2017 to make it easier for Inpex to revise the requirements they were infringed for?</p> <p>When Inpex and Van Oord were infringed, did they self-report the non-compliance? If not, did they cooperate with your enquiries?</p> <p>Did they agree that they had contravened the approval condition?</p>		
145.	1.6: EPD	Senator Whish-Wilson	PFAS contamination levels in the Tamar River	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: It was a surprise to many people in my home town of Launceston just a few months ago when ABC Radio ran the story that PFAS contamination levels in the Tamar River were quite high and they were investigating the source of that. I presume that it was the local government that was doing that testing. Are you involved with that and can you give us any updated information?</p> <p>Mr McGregor: Not directly. I'm aware of those issues, but they're being managed at the state government level primarily in collaboration with our infrastructure and—</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Could you take on notice who I should contact to get that relevant information, please.</p> <p>Mr McGregor: Certainly.</p>	Page 69 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000437
146.	1.6: EPD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Australian Packaging Covenant	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: That is no problem. I wanted to ask a couple of quick questions on the Australian Packaging Covenant. I will put the more detailed ones on notice to you. Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Australian Packaging Covenant itself operates under the umbrella of the National Environmental Protection Measure. Since 1999, support for the covenant has been successive governments' primary way of measuring the environmental impacts of</p>	Page 87 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000438

				<p>packaging. Would that be a reasonable assumption?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: They have certainly been the peak body that we've worked with to understand the packaging industry. They are the ones that have led a very broad engagement of industry. I think they now have 800 or so companies that are affiliated. They are also the ones that led the work that led to a number of targets being held for waste packaging.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: That is where I was leading with this. Have you formally assessed the effectiveness of the covenant over the past 20 years?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: What I would say is that APCO is coming back as a result of some of the work done last year with some baseline analysis against each of the targets. That will help inform our progression going forward. In terms of a review of the scheme more broadly, I'm not sure that that has been done.</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: There may have been one review, but it would have been a number of years ago. I would have to take that on notice.</p>		
147.	1.6: EPD	Senator Farrell	Australian Recycling Investment Fund	<p>What role has the Department played in the establishment of this fund?</p> <p>Did the Government seek advice of the Department prior to its announcement? If so, when?</p> <p>What is the quantum of the loans?</p> <p>Has the Government increased the financing available to the CEFC to facilitate this program?</p> <p>Over what time period does the fund need to be expended?</p> <p>Isn't it right to say the CEFC has previously made loans available for waste management and recycling projects? How much and over what time period?</p>	Written	SQ19-000574

				<p>Are there new guidelines or requirements in relation to the “recycling investment fund”?</p> <p>How are these requirements different on the basis where similar funds have been provided previously?</p> <p>How will the funds be distributed to ensure that recycling infrastructure is distributed evenly and strategically across Australia?</p> <p>How are the funds linked to and measured against the 2018 National Waste Strategy?</p>		
148.	1.6: EPD	Senator Farrell	Waste Exports	<p>Since the COAG announcement in August, what work has the Department progressed in relation to the ban of certain waste exports?</p> <p>What work has been progressed on the Commonwealth’s ‘national recycling agreement’, and on what date was work commenced?</p>	Written	SQ19-000575
149.	1.6: EPD	Senator Farrell	Product Stewardship	<p>Could you please advise the status of the review into the <i>Product Stewardship Act</i> which was announced in March 2017 and due to be completed in June 2018?</p> <p>Has the current Minister or any previous Ministers issued an extension? If so, why?</p> <p>On 30 June 2017, the Minister listed a series of notices for products to be added to the stewardship voluntary list. Can you please provide an update on the accreditation for each item?</p> <p>The Government announced a fund to fast-track stewardship of such items, has this work begun?</p> <p>How much has been expended from this fund?</p>	Written	SQ19-000576

150.	1.6: EPD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Product Stewardship and Packaging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When was the Product Stewardship Review completed? 2. When was the Product Stewardship Review delivered to the Minister? 3. When will the Product Stewardship Review be publicly released? 4. Did the Product Stewardship Review consider the merits of voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory schemes? 5. Did the Product Stewardship Review evaluate the efficacy of the Australian Packaging Covenant? 6. Does the Department consider the Australian Packaging Covenant to have been successful in addressing the impacts of waste packaging? 7. Has the Department evaluated what sorts of measures are likely to be needed in order to achieve the 2025 National Packaging Targets? 8. Has the Department provided advice to the minister on what sorts of measures are likely to be needed in order to achieve the 2025 National Packaging Targets? 9. Does the Department have any responsibility in helping to achieve the 2025 National Packaging Targets? 	Written	SQ19-000579
151.	1.6: CCD	Senator Faruqi	Variation of the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure	<p>Will the Department endorse the stricter standards on national air pollution standards articulated by health experts including the Thoracic Society, the Lung Foundation, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Lung Health Research Centre?</p> <p>Is the Department confident of the cost-benefit analysis in the NEPM Variation Impact Statement despite criticisms of the methodology made by the Australia Institute?</p>	Written	SQ19-000578

				<p>What advice has the Department of Environment and Energy provided the minister regarding the variation of this National Environment Protection Measure?</p> <p>Has the Department met or have any plans to meet or engage with independent health experts to inform the Commonwealth's position on the NEPM Variation?</p>		
152.	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Emissions Reduction Fund – vegetation programs	<p>Senator URQUHART: Since 2015 what proportion of the ERF has been spent on vegetation programs?</p> <p>Mr Evans: That's not a question for Mr Sturgiss. I will see if Ms Bennett—</p> <p>Ms Bennett: I think we might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Evans: It is fair to say that a large proportion of the Emissions Reduction Fund has been spent on vegetation and land related projects. It's the largest sector.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The <i>Guardian</i> reported that it was 1.5 billion.</p> <p>Ms Bennett: I can give it to you in millions of tonnes. Vegetation accounts for 125.7 million tonnes out of the 192 million tonnes that has been contracted.</p> <p>Mr Evans: That probably would indicate that it's a relatively large proportion.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But you don't have the—</p> <p>Mr Evans: We will have to come back with the actual number.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The dollar figures?</p> <p>Mr Evans: Yes.</p>	Page 94 and 95 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000439
153.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Technology improvements	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We will come back to that. What is 'technology improvements and other sources of abatement'? How much is that meant to make up?</p> <p>Ms Bennett: That is approximately 92 million tonnes. The bar above the line is 92 million tonnes, and it could be more than that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That's just under a third of</p>	Page 98 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000440

				<p>the total reduction that you're trying to get out of this Climate Solutions Package? What does it mean? What is 'technology improvements and other sources of abatement'? What are we talking about here?</p> <p>Ms Bennett: It's basically improvements in the technology. What we've found with the benefit of hindsight is that technology often moves more rapidly than government programs or government funding, et cetera. It takes into account the fact that there will be new technologies that will drive some abatement potential.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But it's effectively a third of what you're banking on needing. Can you name any of these technologies?</p> <p>Ms Bennett: We can take that on notice, I think. Thanks.</p>		
154.	2.1: CCD	Senator Waters	<p>Climate implications of fracking the Beetaloo Basin</p>	<p>Senator WATERS: I hope I've got the right people at the table. I'm interested in the climate implications of fracking the Beetaloo Basin. I understand there's been an arrangement made between the NT government and the Commonwealth for scope 1 and 2 emissions to be offset. I'm interested to know a little bit more about that arrangement. Do we have the right folk here?</p> <p>Ms Evans: It is my group. There was a commitment that was made by the Northern Territory government to offset the emissions from their fracking, and the Commonwealth is working with them to figure out how they might approach that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: How will you approach it?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We are talking to them. We don't have the answers yet on how they're going to do that. It's a large amount.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Indeed. What sort of quantum?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to take that on notice, I'm afraid.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm interested in how you will even measure and work out the quantum, given that a lot of those scope 1 and 2 emissions are fugitive emissions. How are we measuring those?</p>	Page 106- 107 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000441

			<p>Ms Evans: We have pretty good approaches to measuring fugitive emissions. If you want us to answer that now, we can.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you can do so in a really succinct way, otherwise provide it to me on notice, because I have a few small follow-up questions and I don't want to test everyone's patience.</p> <p>CHAIR: On notice would be wonderful.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Not that it's not fascinating; I'm sure it is.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Sorry to those officers—your brief moment in the sun has come to an end!</p> <p>Ms Evans: I do want to make sure it's not left hanging that that's something that would be too difficult for us to do. We manage to measure fugitive emissions all the time.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I understand. I will look forward to the detail—I really will, genuinely. If we had time to go through it now, I would love to. If the emissions are not able to be offset or are not offset, what will be the impact on Australia's emissions?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We will have to take that on notice, similar to your first question about the quantum. I just don't have those figures with me.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has any analysis been undertaken of the impact of the Beetaloo project—and other projects, for that matter, throughout the NT and WA—on our capacity to meet our Paris targets?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think, again, I will need to take that on notice. I have to take it on notice because I'm not sure what's in and what's not in our projections.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay, as much information as you possibly can. To cover off on all angles here, what assistance is being provided to the NT government by the Commonwealth in relation to this matter?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We will take it on notice to give you more detail. At the moment we're really just talking to them about options</p>		
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				and approaches.		
155.	2.1: CCD	Senator McDonald	Just Transition Summit New Zealand	<p>Did any officers from the Department of the Environment and Energy attend the Just Transition Summit in New Plymouth, New Zealand on 9-10 May 2019?</p> <p>If the answer to question one was yes:</p> <p>a. How many officers attended and what were their classifications?</p> <p>b. What were the total costs (flights, accommodation etc.)?</p> <p>c. For what purpose did the officers attend the event?</p>	Written	SQ19-000474
156.	2.1: CCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Brian Fisher	<p>Regarding the Department's tendering for "management advisory services" relating to the "liquid fuel supply chain":</p> <p>a. What has BA Economics been contracted to do?</p> <p>b. When will it be finished?</p> <p>c. Will it be made public?</p> <p>Brian Fisher was the author of very politically potent modelling released during the election claiming that higher emissions targets would have a very high cost to Australia's economy:</p> <p>a. Does the Department consider this modelling to be credible?</p> <p>b. Why didn't the Department do this in-house, or in collaboration with another government agency?</p>	Written	SQ19-000588
157.	2.1: PAID	Senator Whish-Wilson	G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, Karuizawa,	<p>Was Australia represented at this meeting, and by whom?</p> <p>Regarding the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter:</p> <p>a. Has Australia adopted this framework?</p> <p>b. What action has Australian taken that are consistent with this framework?</p>	Written	SQ19-000598

			Japan, 15-16 June 2019			
158.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Hanson-Young	Australia's carryover target	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, but we did start this conversation with you saying that there have been a number of more recent reports that have said that the climate is changing even more than perhaps previously anticipated. How can using carryover targets fit with the claim that what Australia is proposing to do is ambitious?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Using carryover fits because the intention always of the structure of the availability of carryover was to ensure that countries did not feel like they were being disadvantaged by overachieving on targets in the past. The whole mechanism of the Paris Agreement is that you ratchet up or you ratchet towards lower emissions over time. These targets for 2030 are the first set of targets that we will set under the Paris Agreement. There will be further targets set by Australia down the track. That's what the intent of the agreement is. So carryover fits in that context, because we wouldn't want any country to feel that they were being penalised for having overachieved any particular target as they consider setting the next one.</p> <p>Ms Evans: As I've said, I don't know if that language is used but, when they look at Australia and they calculate the cost of the abatement that might have to be taken here, we tend to come out in the higher cost categories and that says that our target is ambitious.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Evans: No. The government is committed to the 26 to 28 per cent target, as it always has been.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has there been any concern raised with Australia about the use of the carryover target?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to take that on notice or perhaps come back to it when I have my team here who are more deeply involved in the international discussions, but I'm not aware of it being raised formally with Australia at all.</p>	Page 11 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000442
159.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator	Emissions data -	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do we know—and, Mr	Page 130- 131	SQ19-000467

		Hanson-Young	Amazon	<p>Heferen, I don't know whether this is something you could answer—as to whether there have been any representations from Amazon to the department about making sure that their data is kept secret? Sorry, Mr Heferen. I'm asking whether you're aware of any representations from Amazon to the department or the minister's office that they are able to keep their data secret?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I'm not aware of any, and the department's not aware—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just for clarity's sake, could you take that on notice as to whether there's been any type of representation from Amazon directly.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We will take that on notice.</p>	Monday 21 October	
160.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Urquhart	CEFC - privatisation	<p>Senator URQUHART: If the CEFC were to be sold as an entity, would that require a change to the CEFC Act?</p> <p>Mr Learmonth: It's not something I could comment on. That's entirely up to government.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Heferen, if the government were to sell the CEFC as an entity, would that require a change to the CEFC Act?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I have no idea. That's not an issue that I know anyone has looked at. I think Mr Learmonth has outlined how that came about by someone's subediting.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The question is: if that were to happen, would that require a change to the act?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I don't know.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We can take that on notice.</p>	Page 132 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000470
161.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator McKim	Climate emissions projections and accounting	<p>What is the target level of carbon dioxide (equivalent) emissions to be reached by the end of June 2020 – that is, 5% lower than the 2000 level (“Kyoto Protocol 2”)?</p> <p>What is the present (up to March 2019) emissions level?</p> <p>How can the Government claim to be on track for 2020,</p>	Written	SQ19-000597

				<p>when we are missing the target by 15 megatonnes (Mt)?</p> <p>Why are the starting and end-points of the 2013-2020 trajectory changed every year – the end-point is currently 524 Mt, but in 2014-2015 (from the Projections of that period) it was 530 Mt and in 2013 it was 555 Mt?</p> <p>When the starting and end-point emission levels of the 2013 to 2020 period were changed, with concomitant effects on the abatement task, did the Government inform, and seek approval from, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change about these changes?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide details of the approval?</p> <p>Does the Government intend to change the starting and end-points for the period 2013 to 2020 again, at the end of 2019, which would instantly increase potential “carry-over” by 16 Mt, without doing anything to reduce emissions?</p> <p>What is the current end-point goal for 2030 (Paris Agreement)?</p> <p>Does the Government intend to continually alter the 2030 target, as has happened for 2020?</p> <p>a. If not, please explain how targets will be maintained.</p> <p>If the Government does intend to continually change the 2030 end-point, wouldn't that make it extremely difficult to monitor progress towards that target?</p> <p>a. If you don't believe it will be difficult to monitor, please explain why not.</p> <p>Why does the Government not set a firm goal for 2030; for example, emissions of 447 Mt (a 26% reduction on 2005 levels as estimated in 2018)? In 2030, it would not matter if emissions were less than 447 Mt, as long as they did not exceed that level. The fixed goal would mean that progress</p>		
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				<p>can be assessed by the electorate.</p> <p>Where is it specified in the Paris Agreement that “carry-over” from the Kyoto phases can be used to meet the 2030 target?</p>		
162.	2.2: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Professor Ross Garnuat’s forecast	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ross Garnaut previously forecast that there would be a 92 per cent decline in agricultural productivity in the Murray-Darling Basin if global warming was not got under control. Do you agree with that assessment?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I haven't had the opportunity to review Professor Garnaut's work or any advice on that. Ms Evans may have done.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Evans, are you aware of that forecast?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I don't recall that particular forecast, so I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you agree with that assessment?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I don't have an answer on that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you think that climate change and global warming are going to make productivity in the Murray-Darling Basin harder?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'll take it on notice to see what the scientific evidence says on that point.</p>	Page 20-21 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000444
163.	2.2: CCD	Senator Whish-Wilson	Mitigating emissions	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can you give us some examples of where you've provided similar information about mitigating emissions to avoid climate change in the first place?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We have provided advice to the government on the types of choices that they have to implement emissions reduction—mitigation measures, as you're calling them. We also provide advice on the kinds of impacts that climate itself might have on Australia, and therefore some of the adaptations that might be required over time. We have briefed on both of</p>	Page 21-22 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000445

				<p>those topics. We do not present them as a choice. Both of them are part of the solution.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: I might have to go back and check <i>Hansard</i>, but with the website that you were talking about that provides that information, I presume you've had some kind of input into that. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to double-check. Obviously, the Bureau of Meteorology is part of our portfolio, so I was partly talking about us as a portfolio. Our department certainly takes a role in guiding the kind of information that might be useful in the future. These are the kinds of things we talk about through the Australian government resilience reference group that I co-chair.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: If I could follow that up, Ms Evans, the reason I raised that was because if you're providing that advice on an adaption measure, that's fine; people can use that. But a big part of this debate, including advocacy on this debate, is on mitigation.</p> <p>CHAIR: We'll take that as a comment.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Have you provided any public information on mitigation?</p> <p>CHAIR: You can put that on notice. We'll take that as a comment and question on notice. Ms Evans, thank you; that was a good segue to the Bureau of Meteorology.</p>		
164.	2.2: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Climate programs to assist with coastal erosion	<p>Senator URQUHART: Is it fair to say there are actually no programs that are available for, say, local governments to access funds to assist with coastal erosion? Is that what I'm hearing?</p> <p>Mr Johnston: That's not to say there aren't in other portfolios programs that might be relevant, but the Climate Change Division does not run—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So, climate change doesn't have any programs at all?</p> <p>Mr Evans: We don't have any administered programs now, as Mr Johnston said, but we have previously had them, and this was about building the information base that was</p>	Page 92 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000446

				<p>available through CoastAdapt. That was consistent with the adaptation strategy that Ms Bennett was describing where the role of the Commonwealth has been to provide information, and it's really up to the states and territories to have their plans for coastal management.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. They have their plans; under this portfolio, Environment, there are no funds available to assist state or local governments to cover the costs of some of those plans?</p> <p>Mr Evans: I might see if we can come back with a confirmation. I think we do have a small program in another part of the department that is available to help to some degree with coastal related infrastructure and so on. But those officials aren't here.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: When you say a small program—</p> <p>Mr Evans: That's not my responsibility. Unfortunately I can't even recall the name of it. If I can come back to you on that, that would be great.</p>		
165.	3.1: AAD	Senator Urquhart	Milestones for delivery	<p>Senator URQUHART: My final question is just in relation to the milestones for the delivery. You're measuring those and checking them. Are they available publicly? How do we get information about how it's measuring up to the—</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: That's a question on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But are they available publicly? What's the process for us getting that information available for workers et cetera?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: As Senator Patrick's highlighted, those milestones were part of a question on notice. They have been published. I'm happy to put those out again, if you—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: No. I'm asking: how do you measure against those milestones? You have the milestones there. How do we know that everything's keeping up to those, other than coming and asking you at estimates?</p> <p>Mr Bryson: We provide regular updates on our website about the—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay—so they are on the website.</p>	Page 108-109 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000607

				<p>Mr Bryson: Yes—not the actual milestones, but documenting where we are in the construction process is available on there. I could put those on the website with—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I'm asking directly about the milestones and where we will get information about whether or not those milestones are being met. Can we get that information?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: That can be provided. What's on the website at the moment is saying where the stage of the ship is at and what we expect the delay to be. But we don't have 'here is the target milestone' and 'here is how we performed against it'. That's managed very closely and very tightly. But we're happy to provide that information to this committee.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That's great. Thank you very much.</p>		
166.	3.1: AAD	Senator Patrick	Update to milestone schedule	<p>Senator PATRICK: That's a three-month slippage for that particular milestone. I remember we had a discussion at the very start of this where I said that projects rarely come left. I'm wondering whether you could update this milestone schedule. Obviously this is an answer from April, and now you've had something over the period of four or five months slip by three or four months.</p> <p>Mr Bryson: Yes.</p>	Page 109 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000609
167.	3.1: AAD	Senator Roberts	Investment into the Antarctic science	<p>Senator ROBERTS: What is the expenditure on scientific projects within the Australian Antarctic Territory by Australia compared with that of China, if you have some rough estimate or idea?</p> <p>Mr Ellis: Firstly, we don't have clarity on China's expenditure, so doing a comparison of Chinese science expenditure and ours would be difficult, if not impossible.</p> <p>Mr Cahill: We can take on notice the level of investment this government has announced over the past two years into the Antarctic science. We'll take that on notice and provide that.</p>	Page 113 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000447
168.	3.1: AAD	Senator Farrell	Antarctica	With respect to the delivery and operational commencement	Written	SQ19-000596

				<p>of the RSV Nuyina, is it right to expect that the preparation of the vessel is on track to replace the Aurora Australis in December 2020?</p> <p>Are there any delays in the current timeline for the completion of the vessel and its sea-trials?</p> <p>Are there contingency plans in place if for some reason there is a delay in the commencement of operational service of the RSV Nuyina?</p> <p>The 2019/20 Budget included funding to allow inspection of the bases that other countries have cited in the Australian Antarctic Territory - have these inspections occurred?</p> <p>What steps have been taken to ensure that the experienced Australian mariners who crew the Aurora Australis will be drawn upon to crew the RSV Nuyina once the transition between the vessels occurs?</p> <p>What are the plans for Aurora Australis for the second half of next year?</p>		
169.	4.1: CCD	Senator Rice	National Electric Vehicle Strategy	<p>What financial years is the \$0.4m in the 2019-20 Budget allocated to? What has been spent to date? What outcomes have been achieved with the expenditure to date?</p> <p>Has any public consultation been undertaken to date?</p> <p>Has the Department consulted with any state or territory counterparts in relation to the National Electric Vehicle Strategy?</p> <p>What is the expected release date for the National Electric Vehicle Strategy?</p>	Written	SQ19-000526
170.	4.1: ED	Senator Sheldon	Renewable energy investment	Senator SHELDON: Of the international per capita levels of renewable energy investment, where does Australia rank	Page 114 and 115	SQ19-000448

			<p>against other nations?</p> <p>Mr White: The department doesn't actually collect statistics on international renewable energy investment, but there are a number of external sources. For example, the Australian National University makes its assessment and Bloomberg New Energy Finance has made an assessment. There has been a set of statistics released by BNEF with the United Nations environment program in September.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Are they all the external sources that the department uses?</p> <p>Mr White: Typically we'll use Bloomberg New Energy Finance as an available source to us.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Previously the department cited BNEF's clean energy investment trends data for a claim that Australia had the highest per capita investment of clean energy in 2014 out of the 14 countries. Is that still the case?</p> <p>Mr White: In terms of the citation that we previously made that you've just referred to, Bloomberg New Energy Finance at that time identified the 14 largest spending countries in the world individually and then grouped all remaining countries under a category of 'other'. Australia, based on the department's calculations, using international population figures, assessed that for 2018 Australia was the highest renewable energy per capita investor in the world.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You're putting it to me that that was using the 14 countries?</p> <p>Mr White: That was using the 14 countries and the highest expenditure—that's the highest absolute expenditure, not the per capita expenditure—and then Bloomberg didn't disaggregate the remaining countries.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You are saying how many of the other countries were involved, if you were to include all the countries in this report that you're—</p> <p>Mr White: The figures that I'm referring to related to 2018. We accessed those in June 2019. Bloomberg did not disaggregate the other countries.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I understand that the report for 2018</p>	<p>Monday 21 October</p>	
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				<p>cited 23 countries, and Australia was third, behind Sweden and Denmark.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: We might need to take that on notice, just to clarify.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: The department further cited the Frankfurt School-UNEP Centre-BNEF <i>Global trends in renewable energy investment 2019</i> for a claim that Australia had the second-highest per capita investment in renewable energy in 2018, out of 30 countries. The Australia Institute review of that data showed that it was a reference to investment over the decade, not per year, and that Australia was ranked fifth. Can you explain the discrepancy?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: One of the issues when different data sets might be at cross-purposes is that, when one talks about renewable energy, there is an issue of whether hydro is included. A lot of people say hydro is renewable. Sometimes 'renewable' is used as a shortcut for intermittent renewable—so wind and solar. For argument's sake, Norway is a country which has a lot of hydro but very little wind and solar. There's a question, when people talk about renewable energy, of what that renewable energy measure is. The other one is whether rooftop solar is included. In our system, rooftop solar is typically not looked at on the generation side; it's looked at on the demand side, where the consumers or the businesses have already drawn their energy from the grid and they're using some themselves. Some data sets will have rooftop solar being included in renewable energy. Some will just talk about generation. We've had three sets of numbers, and they're all slightly different as to where Australia might rank—whether it's first, third or somewhere else. Maybe it would be safest if we took that on notice and provided the committee with that disaggregation to the extent that we can.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Thank you for taking this question and the other question on notice. I just want to be really clear. In the previous report that I mentioned, which was the BNEF's <i>Clean energy investment trends</i>, I wanted you to look at the 23 countries, Australia being the third ranking,</p>		
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				<p>below Sweden and Denmark. You told me you haven't got that information at hand. You're going to take that on notice if you haven't got it at hand.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: No, we don't have it.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: The second report is the Frankfurt School-UNEP Centre-BNEF's <i>Global trends in renewable energy investment 2019</i>. I understand that report looks at renewable energy in 2018 in 30 countries. Please look at that aspect of it—not a recalibrated aspect of it but those reports and how they actually explain it.</p> <p>Mr White: I might just have to correct something I said before. When I was referring to the 14 countries, that was clean energy investment, not renewable energy investment.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So, with renewable energy investment, where does the ranking go? Have you got the answer on the 23 countries if it's renewable energy?</p> <p>Mr White: No. We'll have to take that on notice. I'm sorry.</p>		
171.	4.1: ED	Senators Sheldon and Urquhart	Inclusion of Tuvalu - BNEF report	<p>Senator SHELDON: No. I'm saying something slightly different from that. Yes, the BNEF report didn't include Tuvalu, but the department's been using that report when it's been equating the amount of money spent per capita. The point I'm making is: why is the department relying on that information when it doesn't include countries such as Tuvalu?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: Just to round it out, the Tuvalu number was included in which report?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: The Frankfurt school data.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I think that goes in that set of things we're taking on notice, to try and provide the committee with an update.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: To clarify that a bit further—my apologies—the department didn't include the Tuvalu figures, even though the BNEF and UNEP did have the Tuvalu numbers. The department has received a report from BNEF and UNEP, and the department excluded the Tuvalu numbers when doing a comparison. I'm wondering whether you can</p>	Page 115-116 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000449

				<p>explain why the department did not include the Tuvalu numbers.</p> <p>Mr White: I think we'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You don't know why the department didn't include Tuvalu numbers?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: When you say 'the department', the bit I missed the department's publication of what?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: The BNEF and the UNEP had the Tuvalu numbers in it, but the department didn't include those numbers.</p> <p>Senator Hume: In what publication?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: In the previous publication—I'm sorry, I don't have that. Take it on notice. We'll provide a more detailed question on notice, but the question was quite simple. The department didn't include Tuvalu, even though BNEF and UNEP did have the Tuvalu numbers in their report. The department used a group of countries not including Tuvalu, so the question was very simply why didn't the department include Tuvalu.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I understood that part, but why didn't the department include in what? That's the bit, the publication that we have provided where we didn't do it. You'll appreciate that we do a range of—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry, we'll put in a more detailed question on notice.</p>		
172.	4.1: ED	Senator Sheldon	Investment in renewable energy per capita	<p>Senator SHELDON: Does the department stand by the claim that Australia currently has the highest per capita investment in renewable energy of any country in the world?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: So that statement is one that the department has made? I'm just checking.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'm saying this with regard to the department, that it's the highest per capita investment in renewable energy of any country in the world.</p> <p>Mr Heferen: I'm sure if we've said that we would stand by it. I think the answer to the questions on notice that we spoke about earlier will draw that out.</p>	Page 117 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000450

				<p>Senator SHELDON: So, regardless of the Clean Energy Council, you're standing by that statement?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'll just make it a bit clearer: I am saying this in referring purely to the Bloomberg New Energy Finance, which stated that investment has fallen by 50 per cent this year. You've explained to me the discussions that you've had with regard to that, the reasons for that 50 per cent reduction and why they've come up with those figures. I've asked you about the Clean Energy Council. As indicated publicly, according to their analysis renewable energy investment in 2019 may have fallen by 50 per cent compared to 2018. If I understand it correctly, you're taking that on notice because you're not aware of that. Is that still correct?</p> <p>Mr Heferen: That's right.</p>		
173.	4.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	UNGI program	<p>Senator URQUHART: Has the department settled on a set of selection criteria for projects under the program?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: In terms of final ones?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: You will recall there was a number—the ones which I covered off—which were released both in the registration of interest process and flagged initially in the consultation papers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you provide what the set of selection criteria is?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: We can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Have they been published?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: Not the final ones; I don't think so.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. Why not?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Why hasn't it been published?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: It is an issue for government. It would be a question for the minister.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you confirm the program will include loans, grants, contract for difference or other derivative-type mechanisms?</p>	Page 119 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000451

				Mr O'Toole: We will take that on notice, but I think it is fair to say that the thrust of the program is very much in line with where the ACCC was coming from, in terms of underwriting debt as opposed to potentially other instruments.		
174.	4.1: ED	Senator Hanson-Young	UNGI program legislative instrument	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What sort of legislative instrument would you envisage for an individual project or as a suite of programs? Are we talking an amendment bill, a regulation, a disallowable instrument? Surely you've had to canvass all these options?</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: Yes. We certainly have, but I don't have the specific details. At least for the projects, you would expect it to be a legislative instrument. It is just the question of whether it disallowable or not which has stumped me. I think it would be. But I will have to take that on notice and confirm.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If anyone perhaps behind you has the answer to that, it would be interesting to have that feedback tonight.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: Yes. We'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I would be interested to know what legislation those instruments sit under.</p> <p>Mr O'Toole: I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	Page 120 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000453
175.	4.1: ED	Senator Waters	Daintree Renewable Energy	<p>Shortly before the election, the Minister announced \$990,150 from the Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund for Daintree Renewable Energy Inc. to undertake a feasibility study of a Daintree microgrid. The study would investigate 'Australia's first solar to hydrogen-based microgrid' and take it to 'shovel ready within twelve months'. No information about the grant project is available on GrantConnect or the Department website.</p> <p>How was this grant made, assessed and approved? Was a tendering process undertaken?</p>	Written	SQ19-000594

				<p>What are the terms of reference for the feasibility study? Will public consultation be undertaken?</p> <p>How will the project interact with current consultation in relation to the Queensland government's Daintree Electrical Supply Feasibility Study?</p>		
176.	4.1: ED	Senator Waters	Energy providers' family violence response	<p>In May 2019, the Victoria Essential Services Commission amended the Energy Retail Code to improve protections for customers affected by family violence. The changes require energy providers to adopt family violence policies to assist customers affected by family violence, provide customers flexible assistance in managing their personal and financial security, protects contact information, and provides for training for all responsible staff to improve awareness of family violence issues.</p> <p>Has the Department been briefed on these changes? If so, has any advice been prepared for the Minister regarding the changes?</p> <p>Has the Department done any work to look at advocating for a similar approach nationally through COAG?</p>	Written	SQ19-000595
177.	4.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	North south gas pipeline	<p>In April 2017, the government agreed to conduct a feasibility study on a north south gas pipeline, to transport NT gas to the southern states via Moomba.</p> <p>Questions to Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the department aware of that study? 2. Has the government been involved in performing the study? 3. What is the current state of the study? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has it been completed? When? 	Written	SQ19-000593

				<p>b. Has it been provided to government? (our understanding is it is complete and handed to government). When was it provided?</p> <p>4. Why has this study not been released publicly?</p> <p>5. When will the study be released publicly?</p> <p>Questions to Minister:</p> <p>1. Why has the government not released this study?</p> <p>2. When will the government release this study?</p> <p>3. Is the government still committed, as it was in 2017, to co-fund this project if the feasibility study stacks up?</p>		
178.	4.1: ESED	Senator Pratt	Energy Agency 4E Solid State Lighting Annex	Why is the Australian Government participating and funding the International Energy Agency 4E Solid State Lighting Annex given that the work of the group that is not supported by the global lighting industry or the global standards community?	Written	SQ19-000515
179.	4.1: ESED	Senator Pratt	LED lamps	<p>Is the Australian Government funding (or part funding) the testing of LED lamps regarding temporal light modulation as part of the work of the International Energy Agency 4E SSL ANNEX?</p> <p>a. If so, what is the purpose of the testing?</p> <p>There appears to be no conclusive evidence of adverse health effects in relation to temporal modulation of an LED lamp, why is the Australian Government providing funding for the testing of these lamps?</p>	Written	SQ19-000516
180.	Australian Renewable	Senator Marielle Smith	ARENA – Budget allocation	Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Mr Miller, my first question is on ARENA's remaining budget allocation. Can	Page 100 Monday 21	SQ19-000460

	Energy Agency			<p>you tell me what that is?</p> <p>Mr Miller: Our remaining funds available to commit to new projects are around \$200 million. The actual budget allocation, per the statutory table, is about our ability to draw down funds, which is a different number to what we have available to commit to new projects. That's just the way that our pipeline works. So I'd have to clarify if you're asking specifically about the amount of cash available to spend, which is a higher number than the amount that we have available in terms of projects we can commit to.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Could you provide both figures to me?</p> <p>Mr Miller: I could provide the budget number—probably on notice, because I'd need to add up a bunch of numbers. But the thing we're focused on is how much we have available for committing to new projects, and, as I said, that's around \$200 million that we have left.</p>	October	
181.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Roberts	Level of carbon dioxide in 1952	<p>Senator ROBERTS: It certainly is. The answer is 1952, according to a BoM graph. Is 1952 still the year with the maximum number of very hot days?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Senator, I will have to take really detailed questions like that on notice. If you have more detailed questions like that, please put them on notice and we'll be happy to reply.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I'm happy to table this, Chair. This is a graph from the BoM website.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Roberts, please continue.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you also take this on notice: in 1952, what was the level of carbon dioxide? Was it above 0.035 or below?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 22 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000462
182.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Roberts	Removal of a graph on the BoM website	<p>Senator ROBERTS: With respect to that graph that I referred to—and I'll let you see it—it shows the average number of very hot days from 1910 to 2015. It was on the BoM website—climate change, trend, extremes and</p>	Page 22 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000464

				<p>variability maps, and time series graphs. It can no longer be accessed. Do you know why?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I actually haven't seen the graph that you're referring to, so it's very difficult to answer that question. Again, if you'd like to place your detailed question on notice, I would be happy to provide you with an answer.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I'll place it on notice. The point of the questions leading into that was that this graph goes against the narrative of the climate extremists, and it was removed. Would it have been removed—you can take this on notice, too—because it goes against the narrative or was it removed because it was in error?</p>		
183.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Roberts	Years with the fewest days above 40 degrees	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you also tell me—take it on notice—which year since 1910 had the fewest number of very hot days above 40 degrees? Was it 2011?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I would have to take that question on notice.</p>	Page 22 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000465
184.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Roberts	Graph data trends	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Perhaps you could also tell me why, on a graph that shows a flat trend, there is an upward-sloping trend, that would mislead people into thinking—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Senator, with respect, you're asking me questions about a graph that I'm not in possession of and I have no knowledge of. Again, I would encourage you, if you wish to ask detailed questions such as the ones you are asking, to put them on notice. I'll respectfully look at it.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: You've got a copy of the graph. There's an upward-sloping trend line but it's flat—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Senator, I'm not going to answer a question about a graph that you have put under my nose right now. Again, we'll take the question on notice. We'll answer the question.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Let me ask you: is that trend line—</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Senator, if the question is about—</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No, I'm asking you on notice.</p>	Page 23 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000466

				<p>Dr Johnson: Please place them all on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I will. The question I'm going to put to you on notice is: is the trend line put on there to help people, to ease people's minds or to lead people to think that there's an increase in the number of very hot days, when that is not the case? Take it on notice; there's no need to answer it now. I'd like to know the answers to those questions.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I'd like to know the answer to those questions. The second series of questions is: why do the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO only publicly show graphs of temperature from 1910 onwards?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: We display temperature trends over multiple time periods, not only from 1910; 1910 is a time upon which we have confidence that we have a consistent, coherent record. Clearly, temperatures have been recorded before then but the temperature record is inconsistent and sporadic prior to 1910. So we have used 1910 as a baseline. This is commonly accepted.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Roberts, last question and then you'll have to put them on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Are you aware that, according to BoM's own data, the 1880s and 1890s were warmer than today?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Yes. That's a general statement. If you have got specific examples that you would like to show us, I'd be happy to look into it for you.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Sure, I can. If you have a look at the GHCN stations that cover all long-term Australian stations in the G8CN network, you'll see that that is the case.</p>		
185.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Hanson-Young	Forecast of rainfall in South Australia	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I guess from a parochial South Australian perspective, have you got any forecast for the rainfall or, indeed, what the fire season means for our state?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: I'd like to take that question on notice. I'd be happy to provide you with a detailed answer to that. The</p>	Page 27 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000468

				<p>trends that I outlined earlier to Senator Urquhart are also manifest in South Australia, unfortunately.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We had record heatwaves.</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Parts of your state, particularly parts of Lake Eyre and Yorke Peninsula, have been the beneficiaries of some of that rainfall that's also fallen on western Victoria that I mentioned earlier. It is one of the few places in the country where there has been some wetness. But the overall trend, particularly for the northern parts of the state from a rainfall point of view, is consistent with the earlier responses. Like the rest of Australia, South Australia is in for a hot summer.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Whish-Wilson, one question.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to follow up on the question on notice: if you could include the information in relation to heatwaves, that would be very helpful.</p>		
186.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Whish-Wilson	Data on broken records	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: We have mentioned several times in the conversation that new records are being broken and the various metrics. Does the department keep a track of actual broken records?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: The bureau certainly does; absolutely.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Where can I access that?</p> <p>Dr Johnson: Again, I'll take that on notice to give a specific online reference. All of our data is publicly available so I'd be happy to point you in the right direction. If you can write the specific request down, I'll make sure I point you to the specific place.</p>	Page 28 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000469
187.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Farrell	The Prime Minister's National Drought Map	Please describe the role BOM has had in providing data to inform the Prime Minister's National Drought Map.	Written	SQ19-000591
188.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Farrell	Data sets used to inform the Communities Drought Programme	Can BOM please provide information relating the data sets that were used to inform each round of the Communities Drought Programme, including the mechanisms used to gather the information and the date the information was recorded. Please provide this information for the program	Written	SQ19-000590

				iterations announced on 19 August 2018, 26 October 2018, 27 March 2019, 27 September 2019.		
189.	Bureau of Meteorology	Senator Farrell	Forensic audit of drought assistance funding	<p>I refer to media reports that state Minister Littleproud has requested a “forensic audit” of drought assistance funding. Is the BOM aware of this audit?</p> <p>When was the BOM first made aware of this audit?</p> <p>Has this audit commenced? If not, when will it likely commence?</p> <p>What does the BOM understand “forensic” audit mean?</p>	Written	SQ19-000589
190.	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	Senator Farrell	Australian Recycling Investment Fund	<p>Has the CEFC been provided with additional commonwealth funding in order extend these loans through the recycling investment fund or is the CEFC required to facilitate these from within the existing funding envelope?</p> <p>When did the CEFC first hear about this this policy?</p> <p>Were they consulted prior to the Government’s announcement?</p> <p>What criteria has the CEFC set in order to determine the provision of leans under the recycling investment fund, and wat are the required/measured objects of these loans? Are they reportable?</p> <p>What criteria has the CEFC set in order to determine applicant eligibility for these loans in relation to impact?</p> <p>What have been the outcomes of projects that have already been funded?</p> <p>In what period will these loans be made available?</p>	Written	SQ19-000587

				<p>Since 3 May 2019, has the CEFC had any preliminary conversations with potential fund applicants?</p> <p>Has the CEFC received an updated Investment Mandate in order to establish the recycling fund? If no, has the Minister indicated when such a mandate will be provided?</p>		
191.	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Sheldon	Bloomberg New Energy Finance – investment amounts	<p>Senator SHELDON: You were talking before about the measurements, in megawatts, that are coming online and saying what that's projecting for the future. What are the measurements if you look at the investments measured in dollars? How does it compare from year to year?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: We don't track it in dollar investments. We think a better metric in relation to the target is the actual capacity.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Do you track dollars at all? I appreciate you're saying to me that there's a way you prefer to describe it, and I respect that, but do you track it in dollars at all?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: We don't directly track it in dollars. We use some kinds of crude averages for different costs, and we can deduce it. Certainly we can take on notice any questions around dollars and we can come back with some approximate estimates.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Are you aware that Bloomberg New Energy Finance have estimated that there's been a 50 per cent fall in cash investments, monetary investments?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I'm not familiar with that particular publication you've referred to. As Mr Parker said, it depends on what they're specifically talking about. If they're talking about projects that have reached financial close so far this year compared to last year, then, as I said before, that could be the case. But that doesn't necessarily predict what's going forward, and I don't think it's reasonable to expect you're going to get a consistent level of financial close quarter by quarter. It's not the way financing works.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Please take it on notice regarding</p>	Page 129 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000472

				Bloomberg and the investment amounts and get back to us. Mr Williamson: Certainly.		
192.	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Amazon data	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: 'Trade secrets' seems a pretty broad definition or reason for keeping this kind of data secret. What's so special about Amazon versus, perhaps, some of the other big data companies such as IBM or NextDC, who have participated, been more transparent and not sought to keep their data secret?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: As I said, the act refers to trade secrets or commercial-in-confidence information. Given that we're still assessing this application, in the interests of being fair to the company I would prefer not to talk too much about what reasons they might be giving for their request for the exemption.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many corporations have asked for an exemption?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: Under the NGER Act, I believe Amazon is the only company that's seeking an exemption at the moment.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Amazon is the only company?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: I believe so, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Extraordinary.</p> <p>Ms Thompson: Sorry, I should add that there are a number of corporations or safeguard reporters, as we call them, that have requested their data not be made available under the safeguard legislation. I understand there are four corporations covering eight facilities in that category.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have the names of those? Have you got it written there?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: No, I don't.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice for me?</p> <p>Ms Thompson: We can have a look on notice, yes.</p>	Page 130 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000471
193.	Director of National	Senator Urquhart	Auditor-General's report	Senator URQUHART: Dr Mundy, you said that you've accepted the recommendations in full. Have you commenced	Page 122 Monday 21	SQ19-000463

	Parks		recommendations	<p>implementing those recommendations? Dr Mundy: We have. We've got work underway on addressing each of the recommendations. We are actively strengthening our management of risk; we're reviewing planning frameworks and monitoring processes; we're improving procedural consistency across our national parks estates, which is, of course, a challenge, because we manage a diverse range of areas; and we're committed to improving performance reporting and transparency. So we do have steps commenced against each of the recommendations. Senator URQUHART: Do you have time frames against those steps? Dr Mundy: Not that I have to hand, but I can provide further advice on notice, if there's anything further to report.</p>	October	
194.	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	Auditor-General's report concerns	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you articulate what specific actions you are taking in your work plan to drill down into these concerns and find out more specific details, and what the timelines are? Dr Mundy: I'd need to take that on notice. Senator SIEWERT: Can you give us the headlines of the work plan? Most of these national parks are very important to First Nations people, two of them particularly. I'm quite shocked to read the findings. Mr Cahill: One thing that the Director of National Parks has done—working with the department because the staff in national parks are departmental staff—is that he has strengthened his leadership team. In the past there was one senior executive that oversaw the three terrestrial parks on mainland Australia—in fact all parks, including the three island parks plus Kakadu, Uluru and Booderee. Now there is a chief executive dedicated to each of those parks to strengthen our leadership and engagement with traditional owners and all stakeholders in those parks. That is a strong change that has been led by the director. Mr Dyason: If I could add to that, the director has recently held a meeting of the joint boards for the first time since the</p>	Page 123 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000461

				<p>Director of National Parks office has been established. At that meeting, which was attended by the boards of management of Booderee, Uluru and Kakadu, a number of actions were identified by the boards. The director has taken on their requests. They include things like establishing pathways for local employment of Indigenous people, developing comprehensive business plans and transition strategies for the Booderee National Park, among a number of other actions.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you take on notice what those actions are?</p>		
195.	Director of National Parks	Senator Siewert	<p>Failure to implement park management plans</p>	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I might need you to take this on notice: have you done an audit for the issues that were raised in terms of failure to implement park management plans, decisions of boards of management and lease obligations? I for one have been pursuing issues around some lease obligations in Kakadu, which has been a long and painful process. Have you done any audits of that, or does the work plan contain audits of those things that haven't been done that have been promised to be done, and also implementation of actual park management plans?</p> <p>Mr Dyason: We do have an audit on our work plan this year to audit our lease obligations for the jointly managed parks. That's the first one off the rank.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Okay, but you haven't done an audit of decisions of the various boards of management that haven't been implemented.</p> <p>Mr Dyason: We haven't done an audit of that, but there has been a review of board decisions and documents have been put together outlining board decisions and where the actions are at—at least for Uluru.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What about for all of the parks?</p> <p>Mr Dyason: I'm not aware of what's happening in the other parks.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Just Uluru?</p> <p>Mr Dyason: No, no; it may be for other parks as well.</p>	Page 124 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000459

				<p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you take that on notice please?</p> <p>Mr Dyason: Sure.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you also take on notice how many haven't been implemented and what's their status? Are they partially or fully implemented?</p> <p>Mr Dyason: Certainly, Senator.</p>		
196.	Director of National Parks	Senator Farrell	Marine Parks Budget	<p>How much of Parks Australia's budget per year is going directly into the on-water management of Australia's Marine Parks network?</p> <p>How much of that allocation is for fisheries adjustment and associated grants?</p> <p>When does that budget run out?</p>	Written	SQ19-000586
197.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Green	Former ministerial advisors	<p>Senator GREEN: Are there any other former Liberal and National Party minister advisers now working at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I'm aware of one, yes.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Just one?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Yes.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What role do they have?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: That's one of our general managers.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Who were they an adviser to?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: I believe they worked under the former Howard government. As for the exact dates and who they worked for, I would need to ask them.</p>	Page 37 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000638
198.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Waters	Budget and staffing numbers	<p>Senator WATERS: On funding, how much is it at the moment? Has it gone up or down since the grant of almost half a billion dollars to the foundation?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: This year the authority has a budget of just over \$74 million for the 2019-20 financial year.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: How does that compare with previous years?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: It's within the same vicinity that it has been in</p>	Page 39 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000458

				<p>since about 2016, when we received funding through the MYEFO process to even out our funding profile.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Would you mind taking on notice for me looking back, say, 10 years, because \$74 million seems significantly less than I recall? I am happy to be informed otherwise. What are your overall staffing numbers at the moment—full-time equivalents?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Full-time equivalents are in the order of 220, I believe.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Again, has that gone up or down in the last decade or so?</p> <p>Ms Leo: It has been increasing. We had an ASL of 210 assigned in 2017-18, it increased to 222 in 2018-19, and now we are up to 224. Against that, we were operating at around 219 at the end of September.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What was it prior to 2016?</p> <p>Ms Leo: I'd need to take that on notice.</p>		
199.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Hanson	Coral bleaching	<p>Senator HANSON: Is it true that bleaching occurred in the 1930s and Sir Charles Maurice Yonge actually recorded it? There had been 26 records of coral bleaching before 1982 but it was not discovered by scientists until the 1960s?</p> <p>Dr Wachenfeld: I'll take that on notice.</p>	Page 40 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000457
200.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Waters	Engagement with World Heritage Committee and counterpart organisations	<p>Senator WATERS: Have there been any requests for you to have meetings with other nations represented on the World Heritage Committee or their counterpart scientific organisations, for example?</p> <p>Mr Thomas: Yes. There are two instances where we've had engagement with other parties recently following the 2019 outlook report. Staff and I attended a meeting in Alaska with other World Heritage marine property managers and provided advice to them on the state of the Great Barrier Reef. At that engagement there were members from the World Heritage Centre in attendance and we spoke to them quite frankly about the state of the reef. And separately our Chief Scientist recently went abroad with the department to</p>	Page 42 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000418

				<p>engage with the World Heritage Centre as well.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I'm conscious of the time. Could you provide me, on notice, some more details about those engagements? What documents were provided or what was the nature of the verbal briefings that were given? And what the cost was that was associated with those visits and whether that's something that the authority normally undertakes, conscious of the fact that prior to the last World Heritage Committee meeting five-odd years ago there was a massive spend by the department to send people everywhere to try and convince the world that everything was fine. I'm seeking to establish if this is a repeat pattern and whether the government is now trying to get GBRMPA to do that. I'm sure you understand the context there.</p>		
201.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Waters	Shen Neng	<p>The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority confirmed in Senate estimates on 21 October 2019 that the damages payment awarded in relation to the grounding of the <i>Shen Neng 1</i> on Douglas Shoal ('the grounding') had been finalised.</p> <p>What was the final amount of damages received by GBRMPA?</p> <p>When was the payment received by GBRMPA?</p> <p>Has a remediation plan been developed to rehabilitate damage caused by the grounding? Please provide a copy of any remediation plan.</p> <p>What is the timeframe for implementation of the remediation plan?</p> <p>Nearly 10 years has passed since the grounding event. Has this delay made the damage more difficult to remediate? What efforts have been made to mitigate against further damage during this period?</p>	Written	SQ19-000585

				<p>Is it possible to fully rehabilitate the ecological values of damaged areas to their status prior to the grounding?</p> <p>What is the estimate of the full amount required to rehabilitate all damage caused by the grounding?</p> <p>Is there a shortfall between the estimated rehabilitation costs and the payment received? If so, what is the amount of the shortfall?</p> <p>If the payment received will not cover the full cost of rehabilitation has GBRMPA requested, or will GBRMPA request, additional funding from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Commonwealth government? b. the Queensland government? c. other sources? If yes, which funding bodies have been or will be approached? <p>If the full cost of rehabilitation cannot be secured, how will GBRMPA prioritise rehabilitation efforts?</p> <p>What efforts are being made to involve traditional owners in rehabilitation activities?</p> <p>What is the timeframe for implementation of the remediation plan?</p> <p>Please outline actions taken by GBRMPA to prevent a similar grounding event from happening in future.</p>		
202.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Waters	Contact with World Heritage Committee	<p>The World Heritage Committee will consider the health of the Great Barrier Reef at its meeting in June 2020. The next State of Conservation Report for the Reef is due to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2019.</p>	Written	SQ19-000584

				<p>Has a copy of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019 been provided to the World Heritage Centre?</p> <p>Has the Department of the Environment and Energy consulted with GBRMPA regarding the State of Conservation Report? Do you expect GBRMPA to be involved in developing and finalising that report?</p> <p>Have any GBRMPA officers met with representatives of the World Heritage Committee, or its constituent bodies, since 1 July 2018? If yes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide details of the meeting, including its location, purpose, people attending, and any agenda or minutes b. What was the cost of attending or hosting each meeting? <p>Are any meetings planned between GBRMPA officers and representatives of the World Heritage Committee, or its constituent bodies, prior to the World Heritage Committee meeting in June 2020? If so, please provide details regarding the location, purpose and likely attendees of any meetings.</p>		
203.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Shark control program	<p>Regarding the decision in <i>State of Queensland through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries v Humane Society International (Australia) Inc</i> [2019] FCAFC 163 which imposed a range of conditions on the Queensland Government's shark control program within the Great Barrier Reef:</p> <p>Has GBRMPA met with the Department, or the Minister or her representatives to discuss the implications of the decision? If so, when did the meetings occur, who attended the meetings, and what was discussed?</p> <p>Has GBRMPA met with any representatives of the Queensland Government to discuss the implications of the</p>	Written	SQ19-000583

				<p>decision? If so, when did the meetings occur, who attended the meetings, and what was discussed?</p> <p>Has the Queensland Government asked GBRMPA to request that the Minister take action to exempt the shark control program from the operation of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>? If so, who made this request and when was it made?</p> <p>Has GBRMPA prepared, or been asked to prepare, any advice to the Minister regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Options to implement the current Queensland Government shark control program, despite the Decision? Recent research on SMART drumlines and non-lethal shark control initiatives? Support that could be provided to the Queensland Government to implement the Decision (including funding, research assistance or other resources)? 		
204.	Snowy Hydro Limited	Senator Hanson-Young	Investment decision	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you have no expectation that in 12 months, 18 months, three years time, you're going to be back at this table telling us that it's increased again?</p> <p>Mr Broad: I'm saying that we put a contingency on top of those numbers in case there is something like an environmental issue or something of that nature which we have to cover. As part of contract negotiations, you don't want to signal to the contractor what you might have in your own contingency, because they'll want to come back. It's in their interests to come back.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much is that contingency worth?</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Hanson-Young, you've had your last question.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How much is that contingency worth?</p> <p>Mr Broad: As I said, I don't like to signal. I could give it to</p>	Page 47-48 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000456

				<p>you in confidence, but I don't want to signal it to the wider public.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would appreciate it in confidence, if you could take that on notice. Thank you.</p>		
205.	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Senator Hanson-Young	Current work plan of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you be able to take on notice the work plan that you currently have? I'd like to know what species we're talking about, what habitats, the status, and, of course, the reasons for delay.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: I'd have to ask for that question to be taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, I understand that. Take it on notice.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: Certainly, we can give you the details of the species on our work plan.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: There is a requirement under the act to publish the final assessment list, which is all of the species and ecological community and key threatening process listing assessments that are on the books for the committee. That's published and was updated about a month ago.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What I'm asking for is this: between the list of the things that you've got to work on and the blow-out in time, I want to understand what it is. We don't want to have to get you back for every 101 species, like we've done with the sea lions, to get you to outline that. We want a bit more information than what is currently available.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: I can certainly advise you about the species that are particularly challenging, like this one, in terms of the complexity of the modelling et cetera that is required.</p> <p>CHAIR: Professor Marsh, could you take, as part of your answer on notice, to provide that information? We are very pushed for time.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: Okay.</p>	Page 50 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000455
206.	Threatened Species Scientific	Senator Whish-Wilson	Tasmania's giant kelp forests	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Can I ask a question to be taken on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: On notice, yes.</p>	Page 52 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000454

	Committee			<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: It is on Tasmania's giant kelp forests. Hello again, Professor. I'll probably be able to hear you today, unlike last time we caught up. The giant kelp forests in 2012 was listed as a threatened ecological community but I understand that there is some funding at the moment to look at regrowing those kelp forests, which have largely been lost in Tasmania, and I was just wondering if you could take on notice if there's any program that the department are working on with IMAS or any research institutions in that regard.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: We can take it on notice to the department.</p>		
207.	Threatened Species Scientific Committee	Senator Whish-Wilson	Listing of the scalloped hammerhead shark	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Or I can have a chat to you as well. Secondly, just in relation to the scalloped hammerhead shark, I can ask some questions in the next segment but I understand that you gave advice regarding the listing of the scalloped hammerhead shark and the Queensland and the Northern Territory governments would implement certain measures 'without alteration and in force under law prior to the species being listed as conservation dependent'. Could you take on notice: firstly, did the Queensland and Northern Territory governments do this? Secondly, has the committee discussed the non-implementation of these measures with the government? And has the committee further evaluated or has any new evidence come forward regarding the stock of scalloped hammerhead sharks?</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: I can answer that question now if you like.</p> <p>CHAIR: No, on notice, please.</p> <p>Prof. Marsh: You'd like it on notice?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes. Professor. Thank you for your evidence.</p>	Page 52 Monday 21 October	SQ19-000452
208.	Clean Energy Regulator	Senator Hanson-Young	Anglo American emissions at Moranbah North	<p>1. Was the Clean Energy Regulator initially of the view that the emissions associated with the properties of the coal were the <i>primary reason</i> for Anglo exceeding emissions at Moranbah North as per the regulations?</p> <p>a. In the Clean Energy Regulator's view what "operational change" occurred at Moranbah North</p>	Written	SQ19-000668

				<p>that led, partially, to the increase in emissions at the facility?</p> <p>b. Did the Clean Energy Regulator consider that Anglo had stopped drilling pre-drainage wells from 2014-2016?</p> <p>2. Is the Clean Energy Regulator aware that Anglo have had record levels of production at Moranbah North over the same timeframe of the excess emissions?</p> <p>a. What proportion of the emissions increase is due to increased production at the site?</p> <p>3. Was Anglo's application for a baseline variation for 2016/17 accompanied by an audit report—if so, what issues were noted in the audit?</p>		
209.	Australian Renewable Energy Agency	Senator Hanson-Young	Evie Network electric vehicle charging infrastructure	<p>1. What is ARENA doing to ensure that the Evie Networks project is going to be powered by renewable energy?</p> <p>2. In what ways does the Evie Networks project differ to the Chargefox project?</p> <p>a. Did ARENA undertake any analysis to ensure the two projects would be commercially viable if they were both to go ahead?</p> <p>b. Did the proponent have to demonstrate that this project would provide an additional benefit to the Chargefox project?</p>	Written	SQ19-000669
210.	Corporate: CSD	Senator Keneally	Minister's Office awareness of correspondence	<p>Senator KENEALLY: When does a minister's office first become aware of the correspondence—at the time it's received or at the time a response is drafted?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: My understanding is that it depends where the correspondence is received. If the correspondence is received within the department then we obviously register it. If it's received in the minister's office then the departmental liaison</p>	Page 4 Tuesday 12 November	SQ19-000613

				<p>officer supports the registering of the process and allocating the work.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: If it's received in the department, when does the minister's office become aware?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: It depends on the nature of the correspondence. If it involves the minister then obviously we would notify an adviser that we've received such correspondence and work to action it accordingly.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: You said that someone is assigned the correspondence. Is that information—who that person is—entered into Slipstream?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: To be honest, I don't know. I would have to take that on notice. It's quite clear in the system who the department's assigned officer is, but I would have to check the detail on whether there is an adviser. There are quite clear roles for advisers in the minister's office. There are advisers assigned for the environment portfolio or EPBC, so it's understood which adviser you're working with.</p>		
211.	1.1: BCD	Senator McMahon	Environmental Restoration Fund - feral cat problem	How is the \$100 million Environmental Restoration Fund being utilised to address the feral cat problem?	Written	SQ19-000639
212.	1.1: LCD	Senator Farrell	Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis	<p>With reference to information provided in Question on Notice #9 from the Senate inquiry into Australia's faunal extinction crisis, dated 29 October 2019, returned 8 November 2019.</p> <p>Had Minister Frydenberg sought briefings from the department in relation to any other compliance matter?</p> <p>a. If yes, please provide details of the compliance matter, including but not limited to, whether it related to agriculture, development or something else, and the date the briefings were requested.</p>	Written	SQ19-000648
213.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Leadbeater's possum recovery plan	Senator RICE: Before the announcement last week, what was your expectation of when the recovery plan would be finalised? As you know, the whole time I've been in the	Page 26 12 November	SQ19-000621

				<p>Senate—five years—I've been asking about the Leadbeater's possum recovery plan.</p> <p>Mr Richardson: Our anticipated time frame for completing that recovery plan was by the end of this year, but we are now seeking additional information from the Victorian government. As Ms Campbell said, we're also very keen to make that plan jointly with the Victorian government. That would be a process that would need to be worked through before the plan could be finalised.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If it was by the end of this year, that means you would have been quite a long way down the track with the Victorian government, prior to last Thursday's announcement. When would have been the last discussions you had with the Victorian government about the recovery plan, given your intent to finalise it by the end of the year?</p> <p>Mr Richardson: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>		
214.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Victorian Government forest announcement	<p>What information has the Department received in relation to logging under the new plan, and the impacts of these changes?</p> <p>Does the Department believe that the Victorian announcement represents a net improvement in environmental terms?</p> <p>Does the Department have any analysis of the carbon impacts of the Victorian announcement? If so, please provide a copy.</p> <p>Please provide copies of any maps or geographic outlines provided by the Victorian government in relation to the forest announcement.</p>	Written	SQ19-000640
215.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Regional Forestry Agreements (RFAs)	<p>Had the Department provided advice to the Minister in relation to the potential renewal of Victorian RFAs prior to the Victorian announcement about native forest logging policy? If so please provide details of that advice.</p>	Written	SQ19-000641

				<p>Has it provided new advice subsequently? If so, please provide details of this advice.</p> <p>Has the Victorian Government provided any information on how their policy interacts with the current RFAs, expiring 31 March 2020? If so, which areas?</p> <p>What engagement does the Minister or Department currently have with the Victorian RFAs due to expire in March 2020, currently subject to a ‘modernisation’ process by the Victorian Government?</p> <p>All other RFAs across the country have been extended for a further 20 years and planned rolling extensions every further five years. Is the Department in discussions with the Victorian Government for an RFA which will be concluded at the end of the proposed 10 year native forest logging phase out period?</p>		
216.	1.4: BCD	Senator Rice	Leadbeater's possum recovery plan	<p>What information has the Department received from the Victorian Government in relation to their forest announcement regarding implications for the Leadbeater’s possum? When was this information received?</p> <p>When is the Leadbeaters Possum recovery plan expected to be released?</p> <p>When did the Department last communicate to the Victorian Government on the Leadbeater’s recovery plan?</p>	Written	SQ19-000642
217.	1.5: BCD	Senator Waters	Monaro Farming Services	<p>Monaro Farming Services</p> <p>In response to a QON asking whether the Department receives any representations opposing the grasslands listing by private farmers other than Angus Taylor or Richard Taylor, the Department said “<i>In 2018, the Department</i></p>	Written	SQ19-000649

				<p><i>received detailed questions from a Director of Monaro Farming Systems about the revised listing...”</i></p> <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Who was the director of Monaro Farming Systems who contacted the Department?</p> <p>Was the Department aware in 2018 that Richard Taylor was a director of Monaro Farming Systems?</p> <p>Noting that the compliance action had been on foot for at least 12 months at that time, and the revised listing had taken effect in April 2016, what questions did Monaro Farming Systems have regarding the listing in 2018?</p>		
218.	1.5: BCD	Senator Rice	Greater Gliders Recovery Plan	<p>There is no current recovery plan for the Greater Glider, and the Victorian announcement weakens protections for the Greater Glider in East Gippsland. What progress has there been on the Greater Glider Recovery Plan? When will it be released?</p>	Written	SQ19-000643
219.	1.5: BCD	Senator Farrell	FOI 190723 - National Farmers' Federations	<p>With reference to FOI 190723, Document 8, which contains an email from Angus Taylor to Josh Frydenberg (and Greg Hunt), dated 22 February 2017, in which Angus Taylor requests the Department's response to the National Farmers' Federation.</p> <p>When was that response provided to Mr Taylor? Was it provided by the department or through Minister Frydenberg's Office?</p> <p>Did Minister Taylor respond after receiving the document? Was there any follow up once this letter had been sent?</p> <p>How usual is it for the department to provide other Ministers documents unrelated to their Ministerial responsibilities?</p>	Written	SQ19-000667

220.	1.5: BCD	Senator Farrell	FOI 190723 – Meeting with Minister Taylor	<p>With reference to FOI 190723, Document 5, which contains emails between department officials and Minister Frydenber’s office regarding in the lead up to the meeting with Minister Taylor that took place on the 20 March 2017.</p> <p>Whose room was M1:17 at the time this email was sent?</p> <p>Was the email to Geoff Richardson and Monica Collins (and Mat Cahill, redacted, and Deb Callister) sent from the adviser in Minister Frydenberg’s office that attended the meeting?</p> <p>a. If not, who was the email from?</p> <p>What was discussed at M1:17 prior to and on the way to the meeting with Minister Taylor?</p> <p>Where was the meeting that took place on 20 March 2017 with Minister Taylor actually held?</p>	Written	SQ19-000666
221.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	EPBC Assessment Resourcing	<p>Outline the following resourcing for each financial year from 2012-13 to present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The total number of staff working on Part 9 and Part 10 EPBC Act assessments. b) The total number of staff working on monitoring and auditing of EPBC Act approvals. c) The total number of staff investigating non-compliance with Part 3 of the EPBC Act. d) The total number of staff investigating non-compliance with Part 9 of the EPBC Act. <p>Outline the total Average Staffing Level for the Division primarily responsible for administering part 9 and 10 of the EPBC Act in 2012 - 13? Can the department outline the</p>	Written	SQ19-000651

				changes in division name, size (ASL), budget allocations and functions from 2012 – 2019?		
222.	1.5: EAD	Senator Hanson-Young	Meadowbank Station land clearing (EPBC approval 2016/7838)	<p>Did anyone from the Department observe Meadowbank Station on the ground as part of the assessment and approval process?</p> <p>The referral states that there are no anticipated impacts to Greater Gliders however the approval mentions Greater Glider habitat—when did the Department become aware of Gliders at the site and how?</p> <p>a) Was a fauna survey undertaken by an ecologist or a similarly qualified expert?</p> <p>If so, how many hours were spent surveying for Greater Gliders at the site? Was the entire proposed clearing area surveyed?</p> <p>How many hectares of Greater Glider habitat did the fauna survey identify would be cleared by the proposed clearing?</p> <p>In the Department’s view, how many hectares of Greater Glider habitat will be cleared as part of the approval?</p> <p>Did the Department investigating or making enquiries into a possible breach of the approval in response to an alleged burn at the site?</p> <p>What controlled action decisions have been made with a significant impact on the vulnerable Greater Glider? What were the associated offset requirements for those impacts? Please provide a list with details of the impacts and offsets.</p>	Written	SQ19-000652
223.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Farrell	Dr Wendy Craik's review on the interactions	With reference to Dr Wendy Craik’s review on the interactions between the EPBC Act and the agricultural sector.	Written	SQ19-000655

			<p>between the EPBC Act and the agricultural sector</p>	<p>In FOI 190723, Document 15a, Minister Frydenberg writes in a letter to Dr Wendy Craik that the review was to cover “the interaction between the Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the Agriculture and Food Production sector”. How was it that the Monaro grasslands was included as a case study in this wide subject area review?</p> <p>Did the Minister or the Department have any early discussions with Dr Craik about which areas would be targeted?</p> <p>a. If yes, did this include the Monaro grasslands? Did any of these discussions occur prior to the letter being sent?</p> <p>How was the case study of the Monaro grasslands selected by Dr Craik?</p> <p>Can you confirm how many site visits to the Monaro grasslands occurred as part of this review?</p>		
224.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Farrell	<p>Recommendation 21 made in Dr Wendy Craik’s review</p>	<p>With reference to recommendation 21 made in Dr Wendy Craik’s review of the interactions between the EPBC Act and the agricultural sector for an “allocation of \$1 billion over four years be provided to establish a National Biodiversity Conservation Trust fund.”</p> <p>Dr Craik says in her letter to Minister Price at the beginning of the review that, “A fund such as this could provide an avenue for the protection of MNES identified in regional planning approaches.” Can you confirm that one of the two locations identified as pilots for the regional planning approach, is the Monaro grasslands?</p> <p>Is the Department aware of how Dr Craik came to this recommendation?</p>	Written	SQ19-000656

				What is the basis for this recommendation?		
225.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Keneally	Dr Wendy Craik review	<p>Senator KENEALLY: If we can turn to another matter, I would like to ask some questions around grasslands and Dr Wendy Craik's review into the EBPC Act. I will start with Dr Wendy Craik's review, if we have the right officials. I am asking about Dr Wendy Craik's review of the interactions between the EPBC Act and the agriculture sector. I understand that Minister Frydenberg met with Nationals MPs in their party room about the Monaro Grasslands, and a review was canvassed there. Had a review been canvassed internally by the minister's office or the department prior to that meeting?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I believe you asked this question previously. What I recall is that our answer was no, but we will take that on notice and confirm if I've got that correct.</p>	Page 17-18 12 November	SQ19-000622
226.	1.5: EPRT	Senator Keneally	Dr Craik's appointment	<p>Senator KENEALLY: I am sure that is helpful, but it is not really where I am going with this. Did Minister Frydenberg approach her informally—perhaps you know, Minister—through a phone call or some other form of communication? That is, was there any conversation with her prior to the formal letter from Minister Frydenberg on 28 March? How did she come to be appointed? Was it endorsed by cabinet? I am trying to understand this process.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: We will take that on notice, in terms of anything further that can be added beyond that final point of contact. Dr Craik is a distinguished, long-serving public servant, whose skills to do so are well-documented in fact. Noting your particular love of the National Library's Trove website, there is a very detailed entry on Dr Craik on Trove that I can read to you if you like.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: I am not questioning her qualification. I am asking the question in general terms. What due diligence does the department undertake on people</p>	Page 18 and 19 12 November	SQ19-000623

			<p>who would be conducting reviews for the minister?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I think as the minister has indicated, we will take on notice the specifics with respect to this process and come back to you on that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Would a proposed independent reviewer be required to disclose conflicts of interest, for example?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: You are asking a set of hypotheticals. We are happy to address that specific question in this process. We will come back to you on notice with the process that was followed with respect to the appointment of Dr Craik, and also cover off the issue of whether conflicts of interest were part of that process.</p> <p>Mr Tregurtha: If I could, when the department engages parties, the engagement instrument contracts for independent reviews, including this one, have standard clauses that relate to conflicts of interest. We can certainly provide you with a copy of those clauses on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Were those provided to Dr Craik before she was appointed? Did anyone in the department ask her if she needed to disclose any conflicts of interest?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: As I have indicated already, I'm happy to take that on notice and come back very explicitly on that point.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Are ASIC searches, landholding searches or any other searches undertaken by the department or the minister's office prior to the appointment of independent reviewers or contractors?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I'm happy to also take this on notice with respect to Dr Craik's appointment. We will try to provide as much detail as possible, given—</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: In relation to Dr Craik, was any due diligence undertaken prior to Minister Frydenberg offering her the position of independent reviewer?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: I think we have offered to take that on notice. We will give you a comprehensive answer.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Did she voluntarily disclose any</p>		
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				<p>financial or other interest that may constitute a perceived or actual conflict of interest?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Is the department aware if Dr Craik has any interest in farming land herself?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: You don't know?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Did the department make any inquiries to determine whether Dr Craik may have had interest in land that may be subject to EPBC Act listings?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: Once again, I believe that is captured by our taking the process issue on notice, and we will come back to you on that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: But it seems that you don't even have a standard process that you can point me to. My last question, and I'm assuming this is going to be taken on notice: was any further due diligence undertaken prior to her appointment as a reviewer to the 10-year EPBC Act review? Please take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We'll take that on notice.</p>		
227.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	FOI 190723 - update on the Monaro grassland	<p>With reference to the first email contained in FOI 190723, Document 1, sent on Friday 24 March 2017 5:00:16 PM, to Geoff Richardson (and Stephen Oxley, Dean Knudson and redacted) regarding "update on the Monaro grassland".</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is this email from someone in Minister Frydenberg's office? <p>I refer to the compliance investigation into Jam Land Pty Ltd, which is part owned by Minister Taylor.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When is the compliance investigation expected to conclude? Will the outcome of that investigation be made public? 	Written	SQ19-000657

				2. When did the DoEE first make the Minister or the Minister's office aware of the compliance investigation?		
228.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Jam Land compliance action	<p>With reference to the compliance action involving land owned by Minister Angus Taylor.</p> <p>Can the Department provide an update on whether the Jam Land compliance action is still ongoing and when it is likely to be finalised.</p>	Written	SQ19-000658
229.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	FOI 190723 - listing of the Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands	<p>With reference to FOI 190723, Document 8, which contains an email from Angus Taylor to Josh Frydenberg (and Greg Hunt) from 22 February 2017, in which Angus Taylor is, "following up on our discussion re the listing of the Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands under the EPBC Act", dated 22 February 2017.</p> <p>What discussion does this email refer to? Please provide details of this discussion including date, time, location, attendees, and any related written correspondence, including but not limited to emails, text messages, whatsapp messages and file notes of calls.</p> <p>On what date did the first discussion take place between Minister Taylor and Minister Frydenberg about this matter? a. Was the compliance action raised in that discussion?</p> <p>When was the Department first aware of discussions between Minister Frydenberg and Mr Taylor on the Monaro grasslands matter?</p> <p>Has the Department undertaken any further inquiries to determine when Mr Taylor's declaration to Minister Frydenberg was made?</p>	Written	SQ19-000659

				<p>a. If not, why not.</p> <p>Did Mr Taylor declare any personal interests in that first discussion with Minister Frydenberg?</p> <p>Why did Mr Taylor cc in Greg Hunt, the then Minister for Sport, into this email?</p> <p>Did Mr Taylor make any representations to Minister Hunt in relation to this matter when he was Minister for the Environment?</p> <p>Why was this email sent to the Ministers' APH email addresses and not their Ministerial email addresses, given it relates to their ministerial responsibilities? Was it to avoid FOI or records being kept by the Department?</p>		
230.	1.5: LCD	Senator Waters	Dates provided regarding Jam Land compliance action	<p>Dates advice provided to Ministers</p> <p>On 28 August 2019, a question on notice was submitted to the Department asking for the dates on which the Department provided information regarding the Jam Land compliance action to the Minister. In a response received on 6 September 2019, the Department said:</p> <p><i>Information relating to Jam Land has only been provided to the office of Minister Frydenberg (2017-2018) and Minister Ley (2019). Dates that briefing, or other information about the Compliance investigation have been provided are:</i></p> <p>2017: 15, 16 and 21 February, 7 March, 28 July, 3 August, 12 and 25 October</p> <p>2018: 30 January</p> <p>2019: 11 June</p> <p>On 23 September 2019, a further QON was submitted asking</p>	Written	SQ19-000665

			<p>whether advice regarding the Jam Land compliance action was sought by Ministers Price or Ley and, if yes, when the advice was provided.</p> <p>The Department response received on 4 October 2019 said YES, advice had been sought by Ministers Price or Ley, but only gave the dates on which advice was provided to the office of Minister Frydenberg as 15 February 2017, 28 July 2017 and 12 October 2017.</p> <p>On 28 October 2019, another QON was submitted asking how many times in the past 3 years a Minister or Minister's office had requested talking points or other advice on compliance actions in relation to Jam Land. The answer received on 6 November 2019 stated:</p> <p><i>Information relating to Jam Land has only been requested by the office of Minister Frydenberg (2017-2018). Dates that briefing, or other information have been requested are 15 February 2017, 28 February 2017, 28 July 2017 and 31 July 2017</i></p> <p>QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Which of these responses is correct?</p> <p>What is the explanation for the discrepancies in the information provided in response to previous QONs?</p> <p>Please confirm which of the advices / information referred to in the various responses have been released under Freedom of Information and provide details of the dates on which the documents were released and to whom.</p> <p>If any of the advices / information referred to in the various responses to QONs has not been released under Freedom of Information, why have those documents not previously been</p>		
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				disclosed? Please provide copies of any advices / information that have not already been released under FOI.		
231.	1.5: LCD	Senator Waters	Compliance actions	<p>Compliance actions</p> <p>In response to a question on notice submitted on 28 October 2019, the Department stated that four compliance investigations commenced in 2016-2017 are outstanding. Of those “one matter [is] before the Federal Court, one is in the final stages and will result in a compliance outcome, one will be closed with no further action and one still under investigation.”</p> <p>QUESTION:</p> <p>Which of those four outcomes describes the Jam Land investigation?</p> <p>Do offsets form part of the usual compliance response to unlawful vegetation clearing?</p> <p>At what stage of an investigation would negotiations with an alleged offender regarding potential offset conditions usually take place? Would negotiations relating to any offset proposal generally occur in the final stages of an investigation?</p>	Written	SQ19-000664
232.	1.5: LCD	Senator Farrell	Protocols and processes related to compliance actions under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act	<p>With reference to protocols and processes related to compliance actions under the <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>Has there been any instances where a compliance case has closed prior to its findings being made? Please provide details of what happened in this instance, including but not limited to, information related to conferral of penalties.</p> <p>Please outline what happens when a compliance case closes</p>	Written	SQ19-000650

				<p>prior to the findings being made.</p> <p>How often does a compliance case close prior to findings being made?</p>		
233.	1.5: LCD	Senator Hanson-Young	INPEX breaches and variations of approval (EPBC 2008/4208)	<p>What did Inpex do to contravene condition 8 when they were infringed in March 2013?</p> <p>What did Van Oord do to contravene condition 8 when they were infringed in May 2014? Why wasn't Inpex infringed as the approval holder?</p> <p>How many of the six variations made to this approval were prompted by Inpex?</p>	Written	SQ19-000654
234.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Letter from the fire chiefs – request for meeting	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can I first ask about when the department received the correspondence forwarded from the Prime Minister's office from the fire chiefs requesting a meeting?</p> <p>Mr Fredericks: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So that was the original letter. My understanding from reports—this is where I want to work out what has actually gone on and where this letter got to—is that the fire chiefs wrote to the Prime Minister asking for a meeting. They received a response from the Prime Minister saying that this request had been forwarded to Mr Taylor's office. Can you confirm that that is what the letter indeed said?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice, because that is not consistent with either the incoming letter or the outgoing letter that I am familiar with. We will have to take anything about them on notice.</p>	Page 7-8 12 November	SQ19-000624
235.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Meeting between the fire chiefs and Minister	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In the Emergency Leaders For Climate Action and these fire chiefs' letter on 16 September, they write again to the Prime Minister. They</p>	Page 8 12 November	SQ19-000625

				<p>acknowledge the response they received on 4 July and the advice that Minister Taylor would be in touch for a meeting. Ms Evans, are you aware of any direction from the minister's office, or indeed the Prime Minister's office, to co-ordinate a meeting between the fire chiefs and the minister for energy and climate—the minister responsible?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice. The only letters I am aware of or familiar with are the ones I have already mentioned, on 30 May.</p>		
236.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Fire chiefs meeting	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Evans, when was the department made aware of Mr Taylor being prepared to meet with the former fire chiefs?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'll have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You are aware: did that occur?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I am aware: it did occur—the minister has clarified that while we've been sitting here at the table. I'll have to take it on notice whether we have any earlier records.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Your understanding is that it was in September based on what Senator Birmingham said?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Senator, I've taken the question on notice.</p>	Page 9 12 November	SQ19-000626
237.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Fire chief meeting advice	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Were you asked for any advice as to whether the minister should meet the fire chief?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to take on notice whether we were requested anything like that, but I don't recall or know of anything where we were asked.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Did you provide any advice as to whether the minister should or shouldn't meet with the fire chief?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, I'll take that on notice.</p>	Page 10 12 November	SQ19-000627
238.	2.1: CCD	Senator Keneally	Clover Moore letter – fact-checking	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Was the department concerned by the figures mentioned in the story? Did they undertake any fact-checking once the story appeared?</p>	Page 11 12 November	SQ19-000619

				<p>Ms Evans: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Can we put that on notice to see if anyone else has knowledge of any fact-checking.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We can take it on notice.</p>		
239.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Fire chiefs letter – offer to meet	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Evans, going back to the discussion on correspondence in relation to the fire chiefs, the original letter sent to the Prime Minister in April by the 23 former fire and emergency service chiefs explicitly asked for a meeting within three months to overcome this issue that Senator Birmingham raised about the election. Do you recall ever seeing that letter?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I have not seen that letter. It was addressed to the Prime Minister and was handled by the Prime Minister's department.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So that first letter was handled purely by the Prime Minister's office. That is not the letter that was then referred to you?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I said the Prime Minister's department. I don't know exactly how their processes work, so you would need to ask them.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But the letter that your department was asked to feed into was the one dated 30 May, which you have tabled?</p> <p>Ms Evans: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That is the second letter that this group sent to the Prime Minister, as they point out in the letter itself. You would know that because you have read the letter.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Did you say the date?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It was 10 April.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: The government was in caretaker mode—if not on 10 April, then pretty soon thereafter.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, I understand, which is why they asked for a meeting within three months, taking that into consideration. Ms Evans, you said that you don't</p>	Page 14 12 November	SQ19-000628

				<p>recall seeing any letter confirming that Minister Taylor would offer a meeting to the fire chiefs. Do you know how that offer was given?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think we've responded to that through Senator Birmingham. I don't have any further information to add.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I just want to clarify: you know it wasn't in writing?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, I don't know that. I would have to take it on notice to find out in what way the offer for a meeting was made.</p>		
240.	2.1: CCD	Senator Marielle Smith	Clover Moore letter – discussions with the minister's office	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Did the department undertake any efforts to verify the figures provided by Mr Taylor in that letter once they had read that report in <i>The Guardian</i>?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: No, not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Did they have any discussions with the minister's office regarding that story and its allegations?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Yes.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: When did they have those discussions? When did they first speak to the minister and his office about that?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: I spoke to the minister's office on Thursday the 24th.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Was that with the minister himself, his chief of staff or his advisers?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: His chief of staff in the mid afternoon.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Was that prior to question time?</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Probably not. I think it was more 3.30 or 4 pm. I'd have to check.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: There were no discussions with the minister's office prior to question time, or any preparation of a brief for question time or assistance with preparing a brief for question time—</p> <p>Mr Cahill: Not to my knowledge, but I will take that on</p>	Page 17 12 November	SQ19-000620

				notice.		
241.	2.1: CCD	Senator Hanson-Young	Emissions Reduction Fund panel	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I've got a series of questions, so we're going to have to put some of these on notice. I'm wondering why there's no-one from the clean energy technology sector on the panel?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The panel includes Grant King; David Parker from the Clean Energy Regulator, so arguably he has that connection; Susie Smith from the Australian Industry Greenhouse Network; and Andrew Macintosh.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could I ask for a list, on notice, of each of the organisations and industry groups that were consulted before the panel was put together?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes, we can take that on notice.</p>	Page 27 12 November	SQ19-000631
242.	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Verification of information in the letter to Clover Moore by the Department	<p>With reference to the questioning at the Department's Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on 12 November 2019 relating to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction's false claim the City of Sydney Council spent \$1.7m on international travel and \$14.2m on domestic travel in 2017-18:</p> <p>Did the Department raise any issues with the Minister or his office in relation to the figures used in Mr Taylor's original correspondence? If so, how and when?</p> <p>Did the Department at any time seek to verify any information contained in the original letter from Mr Taylor? If so, how and when?</p>	Written	SQ19-000644
243.	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Request to verify travel figures in the letter to Clover Moore	<p>With reference to the questioning at the Department's Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on 12 November 2019 relating to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction's false claim the City of Sydney Council spent \$1.7m on international travel and \$14.2m on domestic travel in 2017-18:</p>	Written	SQ19-000645

				Has the Department at any point been asked by the Minister's office to undertake any verification in relation to the erroneous City of Sydney travel figures? If so, when was that request made? How was the request made? What advice did the Department provide? Can a copy be provided?		
244.	2.1: CCD	Senator Urquhart	Letter to Clover Moore – Metadata	<p>With reference to the questioning at the Department's Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on 12 November 2019 relating to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction's false claim the City of Sydney Council spent \$1.7m on international travel and \$14.2m on domestic travel in 2017-18.</p> <p>I refer to a statement by Mr Taylor's office released at 5.32pm on Friday 25 October 2019 which states: <i>"The Department of Environment and Energy has confirmed that the City of Sydney website was accessed on 9 September by Minister Taylor's office."</i></p> <p>When and by whom was the Department asked to access this information?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department, please provide a list of the unique webpages on the City of Sydney website which were accessed by Mr Taylor's office on 9 September 2019? Can each PDF or Word file which was downloaded by Mr Taylor's office from the City of Sydney website on 9 September 2019 be provided?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department, did Mr Taylor's office access the City of Sydney website on 6 September as well? If so, please provide a list of the unique webpages on the City of Sydney website which were accessed. Can each PDF or Word file which was downloaded by Mr Taylor's office from the City of Sydney website on 6 September 2019 be provided?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department, why is the</p>	Written	SQ19-000646

				<p>date the Department provided Mr Taylor’s office different from the date that Mr Taylor’s office reportedly told the Daily Telegraph it downloaded the City of Sydney Annual Report - 6 September 2019?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department, were there any other dates that Mr Taylor’s office accessed the City of Sydney website in September? If so, please provide a list of the unique webpages on the City of Sydney website which were accessed and on which date/s each webpage was accessed. Can each PDF or Word file which was downloaded by Mr Taylor’s office from the City of Sydney website in September be provided with the date/s each file was downloaded?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department, on how many occasions did Mr Taylor’s office access the City of Sydney website between 23-31 October 2019?</p> <p>With reference to the data held by the Department and without providing usernames or information which can identify individuals: Please provide a list of how many unique users in Mr Taylor’s office visited the City of Sydney website between 23-31 October 2019, including which unique webpages on the City of Sydney website were accessed by each unique user and on how many occasions each webpage was accessed by each unique user between 23-31 October 2019?</p>		
245.	2.1: CSD	Senator Keneally	Letter from Clover Moore – addressed to Minister Ley	<p>Ms Evans: The letter from Clover Moore, which was dated 22 August, was received electronically in Minister Ley's office on 22 August, and it was then forwarded—I would need to confirm it was forwarded on that day, but I think that's the case—to Minister Taylor's office, as he is the minister responsible for emissions reduction.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Who forwarded it to Minister Taylor's office—Minister Ley's office?</p>	Page 4 12 November	SQ19-000614

				<p>Ms Evans: Again, I'd have to take that on notice to be sure, but, yes, that's my understanding. Minister Ley's office would have forwarded it to Minister Taylor's office. That's standard practice.</p>		
246.	2.1: CSD	Senator Keneally	Letter from Clover Moore – date entered	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you, Ms Evans. On what date was it entered into the department's Slipstream?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, you're asking when it was entered, so I'd have to check. I'm assuming it would have happened on 22 August. What I can say is that it was assigned to the division coordinating unit in my area on 2 September.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Okay. You said that Minister Ley forwarded it to Minister Taylor's office because he was the minister responsible for emissions reduction. I presume that was a decision made in Minister Ley's office.</p> <p>Ms Evans: I'd have to double-check that that's exactly where the decision occurred, but that's my expectation as well.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: So you think the minister's office made that determination, not the department?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, I'll double-check, but my understanding is that that determination would have been made in the minister's office. The understanding of the division of responsibilities between the ministers is quite clear, and this one came in about a response to emissions so it would have been forwarded to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction.</p>	Page 5 12 November	SQ19-000615
247.	2.1: CSD	Senator Keneally	Letter from Clover Moore – date transferred to Minister Taylor	<p>Senator KENEALLY: So it was transferred to Minister Taylor on 22 August.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, that's the date it was received by Minister Ley's office. It was then forwarded to Minister Taylor's office. I would need to double-check if that happened on that date or some days later.</p>	Page 5 12 November	SQ19-000616
248.	2.1: CSD	Senator Keneally	Clover Moore letter – date stamp	<p>Senator KENEALLY: The version of the letter that I have seen in the public realm is not dated. Is that usual, that letters</p>	Page 6 12 November	SQ19-000617

				are not dated? Ms Evans: I don't think that is usual, so I would have to check. Usually there is a date stamp on the letters. I don't know which version you have seen versus the one we have in the system, so I would have to double-check it.		
249.	2.1: CSD	Senator Keneally	Clover Moore letter – date sent	Senator KENEALLY: Thank you, Mr Cahill. So it was sent to you on 30 September. What date was it sent out? Was it sent out on 30 September? Ms Evans: That would be my expectation. As soon as these finalised letters come back to the department they are dispatched. But again, I would have to double-check that on notice.	Page 6 12 November	SQ19-000618
250.	2.1: CSD	Senator Urquhart	Lord Mayor's letter asking for correction	With reference to the questioning at the Department's Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on 12 November 2019 relating to the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction's false claim the City of Sydney Council spent \$1.7m on international travel and \$14.2m on domestic travel in 2017-18: On what date did the Minister receive a letter from Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore asking him to correct the erroneous figures used in his letter in relation to City of Sydney travel expenditure? Did this letter go into the Departmental correspondence handling system? On what date? Was the Department asked to draft a response by the Minister's office? Did the Department prepare a response? If so, can a copy of that response be provided?	Written	SQ19-000647
251.	2.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	Prime Minister's speech at the UN General Assembly	Regarding the Prime Minister's speech for the General Debate at the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday 25 September.	Written	SQ19-000662

				<p>What input did the department have into that speech?</p> <p>In his speech to the UN, the PM touted claims about “<i>achievements</i>” on renewables:</p> <p><i>“Australia now has the highest per capita investment in clean energy technologies of anywhere in the world”</i></p> <p>Also while in New York the PM again claimed Australia was first in the world for “renewable energy” investment per capita.</p> <p>What sources these statements were based on? What data did the PM rely on?</p>		
252.	2.1: ED	Senator Urquhart	Australia's rank for renewable energy per capita investment	<p>At the last Estimates, the Department for Energy and Environment was asked about these per capita claims.</p> <p>The Department pointed to two sets of data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. On one data set Australia is first of 14 countries for per capita clean energy investment per capita in 2018 b. On the other set Australia is second of thirty countries for renewable investment per capita in 2018. <p>Why does the Department for Energy and Environment claim Australia ranks second for renewable energy per capita investment whilst the Prime Minister’s claims Australia ranks 1st?</p>	Written	SQ19-000661
253.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Hanson-Young	Reducing Emissions Outcome - COP25	<p>Reducing Emissions Outcome COP25</p> <p>Who will be attending the COP25 in Madrid?</p>	Written	SQ19-000663

				<p>Will the Minister Taylor be attending?</p> <p>Why wouldn't the Minister for Emission Reduction not be attending the international intergovernmental meeting that is discussing emission reduction?</p> <p>Isn't he in charge of implementing our Paris obligations? Why wouldn't he be at the meeting?</p> <p>Are you concerned his attendance will be embarrassing for the government?</p> <p>Is the government concerned that the COP25 will decide to not allow Kyoto carry over credits</p> <p>Will the government be active in trying to prevent this?</p> <p>Other countries will be outlining higher levels of ambition on emission reduction will Australia?</p>		
254.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Urquhart	Resource exploration for an offshore wind farm	<p>Senator URQUHART: Maybe I could have those other officials back. Ms Evans and Mr Knudson, on 30 March, Minister Taylor released a press release saying that the Morrison government has approved a deed of licence to allow Offshore Energy Pty Ltd to undertake resource exploration for an offshore wind farm. Can you tell me what legislation or ministerial powers were relied on to issue this deed of licence?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I might have to take it on notice to get the terminology exactly correct, but the reality is that there is no current legislative framework for offshore wind in Australia. We have started work on developing that. It relied on a form of executive power. Maybe one of my colleagues can give me the exact term. It was a form of executive power that was used to issue that deed on an ad hoc basis.</p>	Page 25 12 November	SQ19-000629

255.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Urquhart	OEPL offshore wind project	<p>Senator URQUHART: We understand that the OEPL first approached the department about their offshore wind project in 2015. When did the government start working on the legislation for offshore renewable energy? The department has indicated that they are working on it. When did that work start?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I might have to take it on notice to get an exact date. As you say, we have been talking with OEPL and others for quite a long time to try to work out the best way forward. But I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Given that you started to have discussions with them in 2015—</p> <p>Ms Evans: In some ways you could say that even back then we already turned our mind to the fact that there was a gap in the legislation that we might need to fill.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But when did you actually start working on that legislation?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take it on notice to find out exactly when we shifted from thinking about it.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Was it 2016, 2017? I am happy for you to correct your answer if it's—</p> <p>Ms Evans: I think it was around the same time as when the decision to proceed with the exploration licence was given. The decision to allow that to proceed anticipates, if you like, that there would be an actual framework.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So that is this year—is that right?</p> <p>Ms Evans: It was either late last year or early this year.</p>	Page 24 12 November	SQ19-000630
256.	2.1: ICCEID	Senator Urquhart	Australia's use of Kyoto carryover credits	<p>Regarding Australia's use of Kyoto carryover credits.</p> <p>Are you aware of any other country that is using Kyoto carryover credits under Paris, as Australia intends to?</p> <p>Under the plan to use these carryover units, what will happen to the actual level emissions out of Australia from current levels? Will they go up, down, be roughly flat?</p>	Written	SQ19-000660

				<p>Signatories to the Paris Agreement including New Zealand, the UK, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Netherlands have formally ruled out using Kyoto credits to meet their Paris targets.</p> <p>On what grounds/for what reasons did these countries rule out using the credits and what parts of the reasoning provided by these countries does the Australian government not agree with?</p> <p>Are Kyoto carry credits legally available for use under Paris?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which UNFCCC decision from Paris onwards allows countries to use them towards an NDC? b. Is the Paris rulebook finalised? c. Does the Paris rulebook rule them in? <p>Was Australia party to the UNFCCC decision approving the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.21)?</p> <p>That decision states each party ‘Encourages parties to promote the voluntary cancellation by Party and non-Party stakeholders, without double counting, of units issued under the Kyoto Protocol, including certified emission reductions that are valid for the second commitment period.’</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How can Australia’s plan to use Kyoto carryover be consistent with the Paris commitment Australia made to encourage parties not to use Kyoto credits? b. Given this commitment in the Paris decision text, does Australia expect other countries will propose ruling out the credits? c. How will Australia respond if a draft rule emerges at COP25 that closes this avenue for Parties, will the Government oppose it? 		
257.	2.1: Minister	Senator	Letter from	Senator KENEALLY: Was there a particular adviser	Page 5	SQ19-000632

		Keneally	Clover Moore – assignee in Minister Taylor's office	assigned to the letter in Minister Taylor's office? Ms Evans: I don't know the answer to that. We would have to take it on notice and check with the minister's office.	12 November	
258.	2.1: Minister	Senator Keneally	Copy of Clover Moore letter to the Prime Minister	Senator KENEALLY: Minister Birmingham, do you know if the minister provided a draft of his letter or a copy of his letter to the Prime Minister's office? Senator Birmingham: Not to my knowledge. Senator KENEALLY: Did Mr Taylor, his office or the department provide a final copy of Mr Taylor's letter to Ms Moore to the Prime Minister's office? I take it you didn't provide a copy of the final letter, before you dispatched it, to anyone else? Ms Evans: That's correct. Senator KENEALLY: Minister Birmingham, do you know if Minister Taylor provided a copy of his final letter? Senator Birmingham: Not to my knowledge. Senator KENEALLY: Not to your knowledge. Can you take that on notice, please? Senator Birmingham: Sure. Senator KENEALLY: Can you take on notice whether you provided a draft?	Page 7 12 November	SQ19-000633
259.	2.1: Minister	Senator Keneally	Clover Moore letter - information provided to The Daily Telegraph	Senator KENEALLY: Thank you. Minister Birmingham, can you advise what information Minister Taylor or his office provided to <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> for their story? Senator Birmingham: No. Senator KENEALLY: Can you take that on notice. Senator Birmingham: I can take it on notice, yes. Senator KENEALLY: Thank you. A later report states, 'Mr Taylor's office had sent <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> the altered document when council disputed the figures in the minister's letter.' Senator Birmingham: Who are you quoting there? Senator KENEALLY: I am quoting <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> . This is on 25 October 2019. The story is titled 'Federal minister Angus Taylor says his travel figures were false but	Page 11-12 12 November	SQ19-000634

				<p>council was the source'. How did Mr Taylor provide the information he gave to <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>—that is, the altered document? Did he email it to them? Text message? WhatsApp?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I think that's probably covered by the question I have already taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Does that mean you will seek to find out and you will take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I took on notice previously what communication there was in terms of providing the story to <i>The Daily Telegraph</i>.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: So now I'd like to know how he provided it. Did he email it? Did he text it? Did he WhatsApp it to them? I'd appreciate that. If you could provide a copy of that communication—would you take that on notice please, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll take it on notice. I'm not sure how eager you'd be to provide copies of communications between you and journalists. Nonetheless, I'll take it on notice.</p>		
260.	2.1: Minister	Senator Keneally	Printing of the letter to Clover Moore	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Who in his office printed it out? Did they print it out, first of all, or did they just eyeball it? Did they take a screenshot?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Who in his office did it?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Page 13 12 November	SQ19-000635
261.	2.1: Minister	Senator Marielle Smith	Clover Moore letter – discussions with the Prime Minister's office	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: What discussions did the minister or the minister's office have with the Prime Minister's office prior to question time, Senator Birmingham?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I will take that on notice—I'm not aware.</p>	Page 17 12 November	SQ19-000636
262.	2.1: Minister	Senator Marielle Smith	Clover Moore letter – advice on	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Are you aware if the Prime Minister or his office sought any advice from Minister</p>	Page 17 12 November	SQ19-000637

			the origin of the document	Taylor or from Minister Taylor's office regarding the origin of the allegedly doctored document? Senator Birmingham: No. Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Would you be able to take that on notice, please? Senator Birmingham: I can.		
263.	4.1: ED	Senator Hanson-Young	Underwriting New Generation Investment	What specific criteria did the Vales Point project satisfy in order to be shortlisted for Underwriting New Generation Investment? Which Departments were consulted on during the shortlisting process?	Written	SQ19-000653
264.	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Senator Faruqi	Shark culls in Queensland	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the Federal Court's recent decision regarding shark control in the Great Barrier Reef, are there any plans afoot to change federal legislation to allow Queensland to continue culling sharks in the Great Barrier Reef? 2. Is the Federal Government intending on changing legislation to allow Queensland to continue culling sharks in the Great Barrier Reef? 3. Has the Department prepared any briefs for the Government and/or the relevant Minister(s) regarding the aforementioned Federal Court decision and/or shark culling in the Great Barrier Reef? 4. Has the Minister or any representatives of the Minister or Federal Government requested the Department to look into changing legislation to permit shark control activities similar to the Fisheries Act in Queensland? 	Written	SQ19-000610