

Environment and Communications References
 Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding
Question No: IQ24-000047
Hearing Date: 29 January 2024
Division/Agency: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: Full indicative budget for the Sustainable Funding Review
Question Date: 16 February 2024
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

In Question no. IQ23-000323 (asked by Senator Duniam), there is reference to the 'Sustainable Funding Review' and the funding allocation of \$804.4 million. Some initiatives are mentioned in the response. We are requesting that the Department provide the full indicative budget for the SFR, including individual line items grouped under Maintain, Secure, and Lead options for the \$804.4 million.

Answer:

The funding allocation of \$804.4 million over 10 years (Table 1), provided in the October 2022-23 Budget, was allocated to the department as a single ongoing measure 'Strengthening Australia's Leadership in Antarctica' (SALA). In the Regional Ministerial Budget Statement 2022-23, this was broken down further into indicative funding as follows:

- \$136.6 million over the next five years for critical activities including environmental protection and management, charting activities for safe navigation and continuation of Australia's inland (Antarctic traverse) transport for major science campaigns
- \$92.3 million per year (indexed) from 2026-27 to support Australia's ongoing Antarctic activities
- \$17.4 million for enhanced marine science in the Southern Ocean.

Table 1.

Financial year	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	30-31	31-32
Funding profile over 10 years (\$'000)	83,209	66,576	78,654	88,485	92,281	93,563	95,004	96,460	97,899	99,359