

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 106
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Topic: Staffing
Hansard Page: 15

Question Date: 23 February 2015

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: I was going to ask you how many staff currently work on climate issues in the BOM. But could you take the question on notice, if you do not have the figure about how many staff worked in the same area in 2013.

Ms Middleton: We can take it on notice and give you a breakdown. We certainly have a number of research scientists that work in the climate area. That covers everything from seasonal forecasting right through to a very small number who work on the climate record. I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

As at 23 February 2015, the Bureau of Meteorology's Average Staffing Level for climate data analysis, monitoring, forecasting and research is 101.5.

A breakdown of the 101.5 staff by function comparative to 30 June 2013 is provided below:

FUNCTION	30 JUNE 2013	23 FEBRUARY 2015
Operational climate prediction and related monitoring	9	9
Operational climate change monitoring	2	3
Other operational climate monitoring (for example, drought, reporting, regional, spatial analyses)	12	11
Climate and ocean data services	15	15
Climate advice to stakeholders	11	11
Foreign aid (DFAT funded) to the Pacific on climate and ocean services	22	24
Climate change research	15.5	9
Climate variability research	13	7.5
Development of climate models	17.5	12
TOTAL	117	101.5

Note: The reduction to climate staff within the climate research functions of the Bureau is driven by a reduction in external funding for research. The 23 staff that were reported in the Bureau's response to Question 188 from the October 2014 Supplementary Budget Estimates, are included in this response under the following functions:

- Operational climate prediction and related monitoring
- Operational climate change monitoring
- Other operational climate monitoring (for example, drought, reporting, regional, spatial analyses).