

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

Question No: 183
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - REVIEWS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 11 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

What reviews are planned?

- a) When will each planned review be commenced?
- b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c) When will government respond to each review?
- d) Will the government release each review?
- e) If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

Department of the Environment

a-e) Please see table 1 for the four reviews that were planned as of 30 April 2014.

Portfolio Agencies

a-e) Please see table 2 for the four reviews that were planned as of 30 April 2014 by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Climate Change Authority.

The remaining Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions: Bureau of Meteorology; Clean Energy Regulator; Director of National Parks; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

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Table 1: Department of the Environment

What reviews are planned?	a) When will each planned review be commenced?	b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?	c) When will government respond to each review?	d) Will the government release each review?	d.i. If so, when? d.ii If not, why not?
1. Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	The terms of reference are being finalised
2. Independent Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (in accordance with Clause 29 of the Agreement)	July 2014	31 December 2014	Yet to be determined	Yes	By 31 December 2014
3. Emissions Reduction Fund Review	Late 2015 (TBC)	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined	Yet to be determined

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4. Second Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity	Following appointment of the Expert Panel members	22 October 2014	Yet to be determined	Yes	Within 20 business days of the report being provided to the Environment Minister

Table 2: Portfolio Agencies

What reviews are planned?	a) When will each planned review be commenced?	b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?	c) When will government respond to each review?	d) Will the government release each review?	d.i. If so, when? d.ii If not, why not?
1. Australia's Progress to Meeting its Emission Reduction Targets and National Carbon Budget	July 2014 (TBC)	28 February 2015	Within six months of receiving the Authority's report.	Yes	The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report.
2. Review of the Baseline Diversion Limit and Sustainable Diversion Limit of the Goulburn-Murray Sedimentary Plain Resource Unit	June 2014	October 2014	The outcomes of the review will inform consideration by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as to whether a change to the Basin Plan in regard to this groundwater system should be progressed.	Yes	Late 2014 or early 2015

What reviews are planned?	a) When will each planned review be commenced?	b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?	c) When will government respond to each review?	d) Will the government release each review?	d.i. If so, when? d.ii If not, why not?
3. Review of the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011</i>	July 2014 (TBC)	31 December 2014	Within six months of receiving the Authority's report.	Yes	The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report.
4. Review of the Renewable Energy Target	July 2014 (TBC)	31 December 2014	Within six months of receiving the Authority's report.	Yes	The Climate Change Authority is required to give each report to the responsible Minister, and publish each report on its website as soon as practicable thereafter. The responsible Minister is required to table Authority reports in Parliament within 15 sitting days after receiving the report.