

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

Question No: 74
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Quality Division
Topic: PBS - COMPARISON 2013-14 AND 2014-15
Hansard Page: 64
Question Date: 27 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: I will refresh my memory there. But what I am trying to do here is trace through on the programs that are affected, some of the details of which I imagine is in MYEFO, and I can refresh my memory there. Dr Wright, when I asked my original question you said what had been cut and how, including staffing, but you did not have all of those details here. I appreciate that it goes through a broad range of programs. What is the best way of me asking the question to you so that I can get some of that information back on notice?

Dr Wright: As I have indicated I will have to take that question on notice. The reduction in funding was based on the original costings that were done for the new policy proposal, so they can be attributed to staffing systems and the like, but I do not have those detailed tables with me.

Senator PRATT: I do not expect you to have those details now. The problem is that unless I ask an explicit question on notice it is hard for me to get the right answer back. I just wanted to make sure that we have a clear understanding that I am seeking what is being cut, and how, including staffing.

Mr Thompson: Possibly a way to frame the question in relation to the changes as a result of the repeal of the carbon tax is: how is that translated through to reductions in staff required in the department to administer the relevant aspects of the program?

Senator PRATT: Terrific! So if you could take that on notice!

Mr Thompson: Take my own question on notice! I would love to.

Senator PRATT: It is good to be explicit so that I can get the right answer back.

Answer:

\$'000	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Expense Measure - Clean Energy Future – Putting a Price on Pollution – synthetic greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances. (PAES 2011/12 Table 1.2)	2,190	2,291	2,307	2,307
Expense Measure – Synthetic Greenhouse Gases and ozone depleting substances – implementation of destruction incentives program and reduction in regulatory burden. (PBS 2013/14 Table 1.2)	6,149	7,849	7,874	7,829
ASL attributed to above expense measures	47	54	55	53
Savings Measure Repeal of the Carbon Tax – abolishing other measures (PAES 2013/14 Table 1.3)		-4,193	-5,238	-6,259
ASL attributed to above savings measure		-22	-27	-32