

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

**Question No:** 96  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Programme:** Office of Water Science  
**Topic:** INDEPENDENT EXPERT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 10 June 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

The Independent Expert Scientific Committee was not just commissioned to undertake individual assessments, it was also commissioned to undertake broader work. Can you outline the original program brief for the IESC and how it has progressed against these requirements?

**Answer:**

Since its establishment, in addition to providing advice on new coal seam gas and large coal mining developments, the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) has provided advice to the Commonwealth Environment Minister on other matters, including research priorities and projects, and bioregional assessments. Records of these actions are available on the IESC's website ([iesc.environment.gov.au](http://iesc.environment.gov.au)). In addition, in February 2014 the IESC published its annual report, *Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development: The year in review, December 2012-2013*, which details its activities over this period.