

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

**Question No:** 102  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Assessment and Compliance Division  
**Topic:** EPBC REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

The Department's cost recovery impact statement (<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/beb865e6-ebe7-44fa-bc66-7e4c7572771c/files/final-cost-recovery-cris.pdf> - p80) highlights that average approval times under the EPBC Act have gone from 579 days in 2008-09 down to 241 in 2012-13, could you explain what the drivers are for this reduction?

**Answer:**

The Department has been able to reduce the average number of days between referral and approval of a project by over 20 per cent between 2008-9 and 2012-13 by focussing on increasing efficiency.

Drivers contributing to this reduction have included:

- focusing Departmental resources on highest risk projects
- working with proponents to clarify expectations and timeframes for assessments