

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

Question No: 195
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology
Topic: STATE OF THE CLIMATE 2014 REPORT
Hansard Page: 16
Question Date: 20 October 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Waters asked:

Senator WATERS: By which time the reef will be overrun with dredging and dumping, but that is not your responsibility. I want to move very quickly to climate change. I am interested in how many statements the BoM has made on climate change in the last 12 months, be they reports, publications or media releases.

Dr Vertessy: Our last major publication was State of the climate 2014, and that was published in March. That was associated with quite a bit of media coverage at the time. The report is available on the bureau's website, along with some videos and some shorter notes and stuff. We are very proud of the material that we have put together. We think it is of a high quality and quite accessible. Normally, we only report on this every two years, but ongoing always in the intercessional period, of course, scientists are publishing papers on various technical dimensions of climate change. I don't know how many, frankly, but there would be a range of papers. We could give you some guidance on notice if you would like.

Senator WATERS: Yes, thank you. I am interested in whether the quantum of the meteorological bureau's statements on climate change have stayed the same, increased or decreased in the last 12 months compared to previously.

Dr Vertessy: Sure. We can give you a bit of a sense of that by looking at the numbers

Answer:

The Bureau of Meteorology publishes a broad range of climate related material. The major publications include:

- State of the Climate (once every two years);
- Annual Climate Statement and Report (annually); and
- Special Climate Statements on specific climatic events (four in 2013 and three thus far in 2014).

The Bureau also publishes climate material through a range of publicly available media, including but not limited to

- Technical reports;
- Web pages;
- Research papers and letters;
- Conference papers, posters and abstracts;
- Book chapters;

- Videos; and
- Media releases.

Publications can be found at: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/>

The types of publications have remained unchanged over the past 12 months. The number of Special Climate Statements issued are published as required depending on climatic conditions.