

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

Question No: 311
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: PORTFOLIO WIDE - REVIEWS
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:

- a. the date they were ordered
- b. the date they commenced
- c. the minister responsible
- d. the department responsible
- e. the nature of the review
- f. their terms of reference
- g. the scope of the review
- h. Who is conducting the review
- i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j. the expected report date
- k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
- l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

Answer:

Department of the Environment

Nine new reviews commenced between 1 May 2014 and 30 September 2014.

a-l) Please see [Attachment A](#).

Portfolio Agencies

The following Portfolio Agencies provided a 'nil' response for all questions listed above:

Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Bureau of Meteorology, Clean Energy Regulator, National Water Commission and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Since the Budget Estimates (1 May 2014 - 30 Sep 2014), how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced?

Name of review	a) the date they were ordered	b) the date they commenced	c) the minister responsible	d) the department responsible	e) the nature of the review	f) their terms of reference	g) the scope of the review	h) Who is conducting the review	i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review	j) the expected report date	k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs	l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
Internal Review of Clean Land Programmes Documentation	N/A	4-Sep-14	N/A	Department of the Environment	Internal Review	To test and provide assurance of efforts made to streamline the interface that applicants and contracted parties have with Clean Land programmes	Public facing programme documentation from the following programmes: Green Army; 20 Million Trees; National Landcare Programme - Small Grants; and National Landcare Programme - Regional Funding	Departmental staff	1 SESB1; 1 EL2; 1 EL1	22-Oct-14	The review is being conducted with existing departmental resources	No
Review of the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989 and associated legislation	23-May-14	23-May-14	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Department of the Environment	The Ozone Acts and related regulation will be reviewed	www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone/legislation	The review of the Ozone Acts will explore opportunities to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and increase emission reduction	Departmental staff	7.5 FTE including SESB1, EL2, EL1 and APS6	Mid-2015	The review is being conducted with existing departmental resources	The report will be published on the Department's website
Operational Review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme	22-Sep-14	22-Sep-14	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Department of the Environment	Operational review	Review of the operation of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme in the context of e-waste management in Australia	Review of operational metrics including the trajectory of recycling targets towards the scheme's objective of recycling 80 per cent of waste televisions and computers arising per year	Departmental staff	4 FTE including SESB1, EL2, EL1 and APS4	Mid-2015	The review is being conducted with existing departmental resources	The report will be published on the Department's website

Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review	Dec-14	On 11/09/14, the Minister for the Environment and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, jointly announced the Terms of Reference and the panel members appointed to conduct the Review	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	The Department of the Environment	The Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review consists of an Expert Scientific Panel (ESP) which will examine the science supporting the reserves and five Bioregional Advisory Panels (BAPs) which will facilitate enhanced consultation with stakeholders. More information about the Review is at http://www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/	www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/	http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereservesreview/about	See www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/regional-review and www.marinereservesreview.gov.au/scientific-review	Department of the Environment are providing Secretariat support to the Panels. A taskforce of 11.5 full time equivalent (FTE) staff has been set up to provide this support and consists of EL2 x 1 FTE; EL1 x 3.5 FTE; APS6 x 4 FTE; and APS5 x 3 FTE	Mid 2015.	\$2.378 million	It is expected that the reports of the Panels will be released to the public
Review of the Water Act 2007	May-14	13-May-14	Parliamentary Secretary, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham	Department of the Environment	Statutory Review of the <i>Water Act 2007</i>	Terms of reference available at: www.environment.gov.au/water/legislation/water-act-review	Terms of reference available at: www.environment.gov.au/water/legislation/water-act-review	A four member Expert Panel, see www.environment.gov.au/water/legislation/water-act-review	The Review Secretariat consists of 5 officers: 1 x SESB1, 1 x EL2, 2 x EL1, 1 x APS6, 1 x APS5	Nov-14	Projected cost is \$165,000	The report must be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after its receipt by the Minister

Second Expert Panel on the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity that is the subject of the Final (Small Pelagic Fishery) Declaration (No.2) 2013	2-Sep-14	5-Sep-14	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Department of the Environment	www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e09b290c-0642-4817-9d00-095d18bcf539/files/small-pelagics-tor-second-expert-panel.pdf	The terms of reference are available at www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e09b290c-0642-4817-9d00-095d18bcf539/files/small-pelagics-tor-second-expert-panel.pdf	www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e09b290c-0642-4817-9d00-095d18bcf539/files/small-pelagics-tor-second-expert-panel.pdf	The Second Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity comprising: Ms Mary Lack (Chair), Associate Professor Simon Goldsworthy, Professor Peter Harrison, Dr Cathy Bulman	The Panel's secretariat contains an APS6, EL1 and EL2	27-Mar-15	\$213,182 (GST incl.)	The report will be tabled in Parliament and will be published on the Department's website
Carbon Farming Initiative Review	N/A - legislated requirement	Sep 2014	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Department of the Environment	Review of the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming initiative) Act 2011</i>	Defined by legislated requirements	Defined by legislated requirements	Climate Change Authority	*Note: Climate Change Authority staff work across a range of tasks concurrently and does not track expenses for its reviews separately so this information is not readily available. It would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources for the Authority to attempt to answer this question accurately	31 Dec 2014	*See note in i)	Yes

2014 Renewable Energy Target Review	N/A - legislated requirement	Sep 2014	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Department of the Environment	Review of the Renewable Energy Target	Defined by legislated requirements	Defined by legislated requirements	Climate Change Authority	*Note: Climate Change Authority staff work across a range of tasks concurrently and does not track expenses for its reviews separately so this information is not readily available. It would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources for the Authority to attempt to answer this question accurately.	31 December 2014	*See note in i)	Yes
Compiling and Expanding Knowledge of Dredging	Jan-14	12-14 May 2014	Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP	Joint initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Australian Institute of Marine Science	Joint initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Institute of Marine Science to use an independent panel to synthesise current knowledge of bio-physical impacts of dredge disposal on the Great Barrier Reef.	There are no specific terms of reference for this project	Please see the project scope: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/managing-the-reef/how-the-reefs-managed/expanding-knowledge-of-dredging	Independent Panel of Scientists	Two staff - 1 x EL1, 1 x APS3 (short term contract)	Early 2015	\$30,000	Report is to be made public