

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

Question No: 417
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: National Water Commission
Topic: WATER BLUEPRINT
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

What does the NWC see as the risks if the recommendations of the report are not implemented by Government/s?

Answer:

The Commission is concerned at the risk of backtracking on current reform commitments. As outlined in the Triennial Assessment Report, there are a number of areas where the Commission has concerns regarding a lack of national leadership and the commitment of states to ongoing water reform. This particularly relates to: a loss of facilitation and knowledge sharing on water matters; duplication of processes and effort; the development of shadow arrangements for specific industries which lack transparency and public confidence; the loss of opportunities to improve the productivity of the urban water sector; public investment in economically unviable or environmentally unsustainable new developments; inadequate monitoring and evaluation to assess the outcomes of substantial investments made in water management; potential complacency affecting the ability to respond to drought and climate change impacts on water security; and a risk to Australia's international reputation as one of the global leaders in water reform.