

QON No.	Division/Agency / Outcome	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written	PDR No
1	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - EPBC offsets	1. Page 17 of the Government's EPBC Offsets policy says that: "When the protected matter is the whole of the environment (like the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park), offsets must be targeted to the aspect of the environment that is being impacted so as to directly compensate for the impact." How do you intend to provide certainty that activities undertaken through the Reef Trust will meet approval requirements? What safeguards are in place to ensure that a given amount of money paid into the pool will be withdrawn to offset the specific damage it was paid to offset?	Written	SQ15-000460
2	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System - Aichi Targets	1. Recall at budget estimates we had a short discussion about Australia meeting its Aichi targets with regards to the National Reserve System. With that in mind, I want to refer to the QON 63 which states that the Government considers it has "broadly met" Aichi Target 11, with around 17 per cent of terrestrial land protected. If the Government were attempting to accurately and precisely meet the target, what more does it have to do and where is it falling short?	Written	SQ15-000463
3	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	National Reserve System - Reserve Partners	1. Can you expand on the range of approaches to improve effective conservation within protected areas on which the Government is working with reserve partners? Can you provide an example of some of those reserve	Written	SQ15-000464

				partners and their engagement in this process?		
4	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	<p>1. Now that the Threatened Species Strategy has been released, what are the next steps for its implementation?</p> <p>2. What are the key "hard, measurable targets" in the strategy?</p> <p>3. How much will the strategy cost to implement? Can you provide a break-down of the spending within the strategy?</p>	Written	SQ15-000465
5	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Strategy - Feral Cat Abatement Plan	1. Considering feral cat control is a key action in the Threatened Species Strategy, has the Feral Cat Abatement Plan been finalised? If not, when is it expected to be completed and implemented?	Written	SQ15-000466
6	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	1. Other than threats from feral cats, what other threats are you focusing on to get the maximum return on investment for threatened species?	Written	SQ15-000467
7	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	<p>1. Are the priority threatened species in the Strategy the species most likely to see their trajectories improve to 2020? Will the improvements in the species' prospects be due to the Strategy or were these trajectories already improving?</p> <p>2. What happens if some or all of these species' trajectories don't improve to 2020, despite the strategy? What happens after 2020?</p>	Written	SQ15-000468

8	1.1BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	1. Have you been able to secure the critical funding from the National Environmental Science Program to support "better science" on the threats to the Swift Parrot? If so, how much?	Written	SQ15-000469
9	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	1. QON57 states that is it difficult to assign dates to extinctions of Australian native mammals and that no Australian mainland animals have been declared extinct under the EPBC Act. Yet in October last year, the Minister was quoted as setting a goal of ending the loss of mammal species by 2020. How does the Minister plan to test whether he has ended something that can't be determined? FOLLOW-UP Qs: Will the Minister be claiming success if the current status quo is maintained or is the Minister planning to be in a position to say that by 2020 no Australian mammal anywhere will be threatened with extinction ever again?	Written	SQ15-000470
10	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Threatened Species Commissioner	1. How far along is the project you mentioned during budget estimates that is being run with Zoos Victoria to use Italian Bandicoot-Guard dogs to protect the eastern barred bandicoot from foxes and cats? If successful, can this project be extended to other sites?	Written	SQ15-000471
11	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army - people enrolled	1. How many people have enrolled in the Green Army? 2. Is that on track with expectations?	Written	SQ15-000473

12	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army - training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many people have been trained through the Green Army? 2. How many of those completed their training? 3. What qualifications do those who have completed their training now hold? 4. How many of those who have completed training now work in the environment sector? 	Written	SQ15-000474
13	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army - attrition rate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the attrition rate for Green Army participants? Which regions, and which class of projects, have the highest and lowest attrition rates? 2. How does the overall attrition rate compare with work for the dole? Can you break that down and compare regional rates? 	Written	SQ15-000475
14	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army - participants breakdown	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please provide a breakdown of participants by age, gender and location? 2. Where are the majority of participants being trained? Why those locations in particular? 	Written	SQ15-000476
15	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been achieved for the environment through the Green Army? 	Written	SQ15-000477
16	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Green Army	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Government still believe 15,000 will complete training through the Green Army as was originally committed to? 	Written	SQ15-000478
17	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - staff tasked to frame any offsets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you have any staff in the Department who have been tasked to frame any offsets that have or will be paid into the Trust as evidence of the effectiveness of the 	Written	SQ15-000499

				Government's management of the Reef to the World Heritage Committee?		
18	1.1BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - governance arrangements	1. Have the governance arrangements for the management of offset funding through the Reef Trust been finalised yet?	Written	SQ15-000503
19	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - investment strategy	1. With regards to the Reef Trust's investment strategy, can you please provide a summary of the outcomes from the Australian Crime Commission's investigation into an environmental crime with respect to turtle and dugong? What was the crime(s)? When did the investigation begin and end and how much did it cost the Reef Trust?	Written	SQ15-000504
20	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - Reef Trust budget allocation	1. Has the extra \$100 million that was taken out of the Green Army's for the Reef Trust been allocated yet? If not, why not and when is it expected?	Written	SQ15-000505
21	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - Reef Trust Investment Strategy - philanthropic donations	1. It has now been over a year since the launch of the Reef Trust Investment strategy, correct? Has it received any money from private projects under conditions, or through philanthropic donations?	Written	SQ15-000506
22	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Open Grant Rounds under the NLP	1. Are there any grants rounds open under the National Landcare Program? If so, what are these?	Written	SQ15000514
23	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	National Landcare Programs focus on local and on-ground	1. How have these programs implemented a focus on local, on-ground actions?	Written	SQ15-000521

			actions			
24	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Australian Biodiversity Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the progress of the update of the Australian Biodiversity Strategy? 2. What is in the strategy? What areas will it be focusing on and why? 3. Is it still on target for the 31 December 2015? 4. Has the public been given the opportunity to have input? 5. How comprehensive have these consultations been? 	Written	SQ15-000522
25	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust Budget and Funding	1. The Government has tipped in \$100 million over four years into the Reef Trust from its Green Army efficiencies. Can you tell me if, in the absence of any further funds be secured for the Trust, the Government thinks the current budget for the Great Barrier Reef is anywhere near the levels it needs to be to achieve the required improvements in water quality?	Written	SQ15-000526
26	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust projects with inputted funds	1. Can the Department outline how many projects have inputted funds into the reef trust to-date?	Written	SQ15-000527
27	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Projects required to move funds into Reef Trust	1. How many projects are currently obliged to move money in to the reef trust? How will the Government determine the amount of money that needs to be moved into the special account? Is it the case that the projects have been approved, yet the total dollars to be moved into the reef trust are yet to be determined or disclosed?	Written	SQ15-000528

28	1.1BCD	Urquhart	Non Government Funds Deposited into the Reef Trust Special Account	1. How do non-government funds get deposited into the Reef Trust Special account, that is to say what is the mechanism for moving private funds into the special account? Which, if any, agencies or ministers need to approve this?	Written	SQ15-000529
29	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Expenditure of funds as offsets through the special account	1. How will expenditure of funds as offsets through the special account be managed?	Written	SQ15-000530
30	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Spending of Reef Trust Funds	1. Who will determine the conservation projects that reef trust funds are spend on?	Written	SQ15-000531
31	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	BCD - Acceptance of Funds from Environmental Approval Holders	1. Has the Trust accepted any offsets money from environmental approval holders yet?	Written	SQ15-000532
32	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	BCD - Reef Trust Stakeholders	1. In QON34 from the October Estimates the Department said it would provide details of which stakeholders it had been talking to about private investments and offsets. That information was not specifically addressed so could it be provided please?	Written	SQ15-000533
33	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - funding	1. Has the funding from any of the three preconditioned projects you mentioned at pages 151 and 152 of Tuesday's budgets estimates been contributed to the Reef Trust yet? Have the mechanics been worked out? If not, when do you expect the Trust will receive the money? Can you identify who those proponents are?	Written	SQ15-000534

				2. During budget estimates, we learned that the amounts for those projects had been determined but not disclosed. Can you disclose those amounts yet?		
34	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	BCD - Transparency of Donations	1. Has the Department finished its arrangements to provide potential investors with the opportunity and transparency to support donations?	Written	SQ15-000535
35	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	BCD - Offsets in the Marine Environment	1. Are offsets in the marine environment assessed differently to terrestrial offsets? Will they?	Written	SQ15-000537
36	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - Reef Trust Scientific Committee	1. Who are the members of the Reef Trust Scientific Advisory Panel? What is the nature of the panel members' expertise?	Written	SQ15-000538
37	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - offsets calculator	1. Considering it is so focused on terrestrial impacts at the moment, does the offsets calculator need to be modified?	Written	SQ15-000539
38	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - investment strategies	1. On page 156 of Tuesday's budget estimates, the Minister promised that "officials later this year will be well-placed to answer specific questions" about what, if any, investment strategies the Reef Trust is relying on to encourage investment in securing other non-government investment offsets. Can you please tell me about those strategies please, if they exist and whether they have been finalised?	Written	SQ15-000540

39	1.1BCD	Urquhart	Reef Trust - Frequently Asked Questions	<p>1. On the Department's website, the Frequently Asked Questions document about the Reef Trust states that: "The Reef Trust has been designed to consolidate investment from a variety of sources. Funding for the Reef Trust will be derived from the pooling of offset funds that target specific impacts on the Great Barrier Reef from development activities." Is this correct?</p>	Written	SQ15-000541
40	1.1 BCD	Urquhart	Crown-of-thorns-starfish	<p>1. How many Crown of Thorns Starfish were destroyed last financial year?</p> <p>2. How much did this cost?</p> <p>3. How many vessels and crew were involved in the eradication program?</p> <p>4. What other programs are available for managing the Crown of Thorns Starfish problem?</p> <p>5. Does the department view the eradication program as cost effective given the environmental gain?</p> <p>6. My understanding is the cost of operating one vessel is \$2 million a year. Minister Hunt announced \$7 million of funding over three years. Isn't this a reduction on the 2012/13 financial year?</p> <p>7. How will the reduction in funding affect the amount of starfish killed and the coverage of the operational area?</p> <p>8. Given the success of the program and lack of other methods of eradication, why then has the Government reduced the funding for the eradication of the starfish?</p> <p>9. Given Minister Hunt assured the 39th World Heritage Forum that funding had been increased for the eradication of the starfish in the Government's plea to</p>	Written	SQ15-000479

				them not to list the GBR on the endangered list, why has the Government reduced the funding?		
41	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Draft Management Plan	1. At page 94 of Tuesday's budget estimates it was stated that even though budget issues had delayed the cultural heritage study of the Tasmanian Wilderness, hopes were to get it kick-started "very soon". Has the allocation been funded yet? If not, why not and what is the timeframe?	Written	SQ15-000461
42	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Christmas Island Biodiversity Plan	<p>1. Considering the Government has missed its preferred deadline of having the Threatened Species Scientific Committee consider a new draft Biodiversity Plan for Christmas Island in early-2015, and it is now late 2015, is the new plan on track to be considered by the Committee in November and by the Minister in December? If not, what is the new late timeframe?</p> <p>2. Have Departmental staff met longer than the "briefly", as was noted in QON107, with key Christmas Island stakeholders since May this year?</p> <p>3. Have the amendments to the draft plan that the Department identified in QON 108 been made to the plan yet? Which amendments have been made and which have not?</p>	Written	SQ15-000462
43	1.5ESD	Urquhart	Threatened Species	1. How many Department of Environment staff are currently employed to provide information and conservation advice on threatened species for assessment and approval purposes under the EPBC Act?	Written	SQ15-000483

44	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species	1. QON102 notes that there is a requirement under the EPBC Act that a recovery plan be reviewed every five years. How regularly has the Department hit that benchmark? Of the current existing recovery plans, how many are overdue, by how much, and why?	Written	SQ15-000487
45	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species - list of 26 species removed from Commonwealth's list	1. Can you provide a list of the 26 species that have been removed from the Commonwealth's list of threatened species between 18 September 2013 and now, and why those species have been removed?	Written	SQ15-000488
46	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species - list of 46 species added to the Commonwealth's list	1. Can you provide a list of the 46 species that have been added to the Commonwealth's list of threatened species between 18 September 2013 and now, the current outlook for those species, and the status of their management plans?	Written	SQ15-000489
47	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species - species removed from the Commonwealth list	1. Can you provide a list of the species that have been removed from the Commonwealth's list of threatened species before 18 September 2013, and why those species were removed?	Written	SQ15-000490
48	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species - species added to the Commonwealth list	1. Can you provide a list of the species that were added to the Commonwealth's list of threatened species before 18 September 2013, the current outlook for those species, and the status of their management plans?	Written	SQ15-000496

49	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species	<p>1. How many species and ecological communities have been nominated and are currently being considered for threatened species listing up to and including today? FOLLOW-UP: Can you tell the Committee what status those species have been nominated for (Endangered, Conservation-dependant, vulnerable &c), where those species are located, who nominated them, when they were nominated and when a decision on their listing is expected?</p>	Written	SQ15-000497
50	1.4 WHM	Urquhart	Threatened Species - list key threatening processes under the EPBC Act	<p>1. While 14 of the 21 listed key threatening processes under the EPBC Act relate to the impacts of invasive species, but all nominations for threatening processes involving invasive species since have been rejected due to the listing of "novel biota" as a key threatening process in that year. Has a threat abatement plan been prepared for "novel biota"? If not, why is there is no coordinated framework for action under the EPBC Act to reduce the threat from novel biota? What steps have been taken specifically as a result of the novel biota listing?</p> <p>2. If not, why is there no coordinated framework for action under the EPBC Act to reduce the threat from novel biota? What steps have been taken specifically as a result of the novel biota listing?</p>	Written	SQ15-000498

51	1.5ESD	Urquhart	Threatened Species - sources of data and advice	<p>1. When providing threatened species advice to the Minister for assessment and approvals purposes, what sources of advice and data do departmental staff draw on?2. In what circumstances do Department of Environment staff commission or seek external advice to provide conservation advice to the Minister?3. In what instances has external advice been sought to provide conservation advice to the Minister on development assessment and approvals in the 2014-15 financial year, and current financial year to date?</p>	Written	SQ15-000485
52	1.5 ESD	Urquhart	Threatened Species	<p>1. What is the process for incorporating recent research into the threatened species datasets and documentation held by the Department of Environment that inform conservation advice for the minister? 2. How often are the threatened species datasets and documentation held by the Department of Environment updated?</p>	Written	SQ15-000486
53	1.5 WHM	Urquhart	EPBC Act - Permits to import and possess live imports	<p>1. The Government has introduced an amendment to the EPBC Act as part of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bilateral Agreement Implementation) Bill 2014 that would open up the potential to possess exotic animals, like bumblebees, that were not legally imported. Does the Federal Government support the use of bumblebees in Tasmania for pollination in greenhouses? 2. Does the federal government accept that this would create an incentive to illegally introduce them to the</p>	Written	SQ15-000472

				<p>mainland in the hope that their use on the mainland would eventually be permitted?</p> <p>3. Are there any measures that could reduce that risk?</p> <p>4. Are there any risks to the natural environment broadly, or native bees particularly, from these bumblebees?</p>		
54	1.6 ESD	Urquhart	Hazardous Waste Technical Group	<p>1. Has the Hazardous Waste Technical Group provided expert advice to the Government in the last quarter?</p> <p>2. What form has this advice taken? ie. Guidance documents?</p> <p>3. Have there been any changes to the membership of the Technical Group in the last quarter?</p>	Written	SQ15-000500
55	1.6 ESD	Urquhart	Hazardous Waste Evidentiary Certificates	<p>1. Has the Minister issued any evidentiary certificates under the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989 in the last quarter? If so how many? And for what materials?</p>	Written	SQ15-000501
56	1.6 ESD	Urquhart	E Waste	<p>1. Has there been an increase in the amount of E Waste being processed in the last quarter?</p> <p>2. What impact does E Waste have on your resources?</p>	Written	SQ15-000502
57	1.6ESD	Urquhart	Synthetic vs Natural Refrigerants	<p>1. Can you outline the pros and cons of synthetic versus natural refrigerants?</p> <p>2. Can you outline the difference in GHG emissions between synthetic and natural refrigerants?</p> <p>3. Do you have a perspective on the safety issues between the 2 refrigerant types?</p> <p>4. I understand Bob Baldwin chaired the OPSGG roundtable on Friday, will he continue on this committee? He made some statements that have led some in the sector to think that</p>	Written	SQ15-000515

				the perspective from Government has changed from being heavily in favour of synthetics to being open to an increased role for natural refrigerants, is that the case?		
58	1.6 Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Report - Surrogate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you ensure that a surrogate is selected which provides an honest indication of an ecosystem's health? 2. What surrogates are you considering? 3. What is the difference between a surrogate species and an indicator species, like frogs for instance? Will the declining state of many indicator species, like frogs, be considered in the Report's development? 	Written	SQ15-000480
59	1.6 Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Report - climate refugee species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What Australian ecosystems are seeing the greatest influx of climate refugee species? 	Written	SQ15-000481
60	1.6 Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Report - Climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The key findings of the 2011 State of the Environment Report were unambiguous in identifying climate change and climate variability as the first of the three principal drivers with a direct impact Australia's environment and its future condition, and that Australia's exposure to climate change is dependent on global greenhouse gas emissions. What key drivers are emerging during the development of next year's report, and is climate change one of them? 	Written	SQ15-000482
61	4.1 Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee - Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What projects are currently being considered by the committee? 2. What is the ratio of projects the committee has advised should not go ahead compared to how many 	Written	SQ15-000516

				should go ahead? 3. Are information sessions or forums held in the areas where projects are being proposed?		
62	4.1 Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee - Groups / Stakeholder consultation	1. What groups/stakeholders does the committee regularly consult with?	Written	SQ15-000517
63	4.1 Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee - Concerns	1. What are the main concerns raised by the scientific committee?	Written	SQ15-000518
64	4.1Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee - CSG Opposition	1. Has the level of opposition to CSG in the community changed since the committee was established?	Written	SQ15-000519
65	4.1 Science	Urquhart	Independent Expert Scientific Committee - CSG Comprehensive Scientific Baselines	1. Is the Government developing comprehensive scientific baselines regarding the two key issues around CSG - namely impacts on the water table and fugitive emissions? When will they be completed? If not, why not?	Written	SQ15-000520
66	CCA	Urquhart	Release date of November Report regarding ETS	1. Is the scheduled 30 November report on track regarding ETS, or is it likely to be released early?	Written	SQ15-000493

67	CCA	Urquhart	Kyoto Commitments	1. Minister Hunt has suggested that Australia was unique in achieving its first Kyoto commitment however The Climate Change Authority has confirmed that, of the 38 nations with commitments under Kyoto 1, only two nations (Canada and the US) failed to make them. Can you confirm what aspect of our achievement under Kyoto 1 was unique?	Written	SQ15-000494
68	CCA	Urquhart	Reputex Project Discrepancy	1. Reputex has provided some recent projections (August 2015) on emissions out to 2020 and 2030. Those projections post-date the revised RET and the ERF auction. Reputex projects 2020 emissions to be 613mt, which is 10% above 2000 levels rather than 5% below. Can you explain this discrepancy?	Written	SQ15-000495
69	2.1 CCRED	Urquhart	Climate Change Authority - Appointments	1. Can you please outline the selection process used when selecting new members of the Authority? 2. Who was consulted through this process? 3. Did the Minister, or his office make suggestions of possible candidates?	Written	SQ15-000484
70	2.1 CCRED	Urquhart	Climate Change Authority - Appointee Priorities	1. What priorities will the new appointees to the Authority's board bring to the work of the CCA?	Written	SQ15-000491
71	2.1 CCRED	Urquhart	Climate Change Authority - Appointees effect on current direction	1. What effect on the current direction of the Authority are the new appointees likely to have?	Written	SQ15-000492

72	CER	Urquhart	CER - Impact to Regulator from the creation of new mega office	1. The Environment Minister has pulled the key renewables and climate change bodies in the Environment Department into one megaoffice. What will be the impacts on the Regulator from this decision?2. What costs from this process does the Clean Energy Regulator expect to bear, if any?3. What does this change mean for employees?4. Will anyone lose their job?5. How is this new office structured?6. How will the functions and processes of the Clean Energy Regulator change in this new office?	Written	SQ15-000507
73	2.1 CCRED	Urquhart	ERF - Emissions Reduction Targets - Baseline years	1. The Government has committed to taking a 26-28% emission reduction target to Paris; this is on 2005 levels by 2030. Previously the baseline was 2000, can you explain the difference in the baseline years and why there was a shift?	Written	SQ15-000512
74	2.1 CCRED	Urquhart	ERF - Emissions for the years 2000 and 2005	1. In 2005 I believe emissions for Australia were about 8% higher than 2000 levels, is that right? 2. Can I also confirm with you that the difference in the 2000 and the 2005 base years was substantially a result of clearing in the Queensland land sector?	Written	SQ15-000513
75	GBRMPA	Urquhart	Great Barrier Reef diversity trends	1. Is the Reef currently maintaining its diversity of species and ecological habitats with a stable or improving trend? 2. What is the overall trend for these indicators?	Written	SQ15-000523
76	GBRMPA	Urquhart	Impact of Godzilla El Nino on the Great	Based on previous experience, what impact do you expect the 'Godzilla El Nino', if it occurs, to have on the	Written	SQ15-000524

			Barrier Reef	Reef, and on the implementation of the Strategy?		
77	GBRMPA	Urquhart	Study on Coral Bleaching	<p>1. I understand a study has been recently been undertaken by the US National Ocean Atmospheric Administration and the University of Queensland which forecasts the world's third mass coral bleaching event in early 2016.</p> <p>2. How is that event expected to impact the Reef?</p> <p>3. What percentage of the Reef might suffer bleaching in a worst case scenario?</p> <p>4. What is the Government doing to mitigate those impacts?</p>	Written	SQ15-000525

78	1.1BCD	McLucas	Wet Tropics Management	<p>Mr Murphy: I understand that the Wet Tropics Management Authority has drafted a 10-year proposal to achieve, hopefully, yellow crazy ant eradication in the wet tropics region. The proposal seeks an initial investment of just over \$15 million for the first three years. It has been provided to Minister Hunt and to relevant state government ministers. If further funding becomes available it will be considered in the context of the priorities identified in WETMA's 10-year plan. In the interim WETMA has been encouraged to seek further funding through the Green Army program and to work in collaboration with the Queensland government.</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Can I add that there is also agreed funding of \$1.9 million to the Wet Tropics Management Authority through the Natural Heritage Trust until 2017-18 for eradication of yellow crazy ants.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: When was that money first made available, Mr Oxley?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: My understanding is that was in 2013.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I thought that was to run out next year, not in 2017-18.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: That is right.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you double-check that, please?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: We can double-check that for you.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: My understanding is that those moneys will finish very soon.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: That is my understanding too.</p> <p>Mr Barker: The funding of \$1.9 million that Mr Oxley</p>	90	SQ15-000591
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				<p>referred to was made available for the 2014-15 year. That is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: I think it was agreed to in 2013 under Caring for our Country.</p> <p>Mr Barker: It is, and it is funding that is prior to the National Landcare Program, so it is under Caring for our Country.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you speak up?</p> <p>Mr Barker: It was funding that was available from Caring for our Country, but it was contracted, I understand, in 2014.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: In 2014-15?</p> <p>Mr Barker: From 2014, yes.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: On a calendar year or a financial year?</p> <p>Mr Barker: I would have to confirm the exact contract dates.</p>		
79	1.1 BCD	Waters	Wet Tropics Management Authority - Threat Abatement Plan funding	<p>Senator WATERS: Has any money been spent in connection with the threat abatement plan or, indeed, the threat abatement advice since 2013?</p> <p>Mr Murphy: I think there might have been some separate money—this is for WTMA—that was granted in respect of the property, but if we could take that on notice and we will answer it along with the other funding question.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p>	98	SQ15-000595

80	1.1BCD	McKim	Threatened Species - Swift Parrot Recovery Plan	<p>Mr Andrews: There was some conflict in the recovery team and I have been negotiating and the chair of the recovery team has stepped down. My understanding is that everybody is willing to come to the table to continue working together.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: I am very pleased to hear that. In that case, what is the current status of the strategic species plan, and has the Tasmanian department provided a draft version of that, either through the recovery team or through other channels to the department?</p> <p>Mr Andrews: Sorry, Senator, I am not aware of the strategic species plan for the swift parrot.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: You are not aware of that, Mr Thompson?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: No, sorry, we are not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator McKIM: I might just put that on notice, it might just be that it has a different name?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We are happy to do that.</p>	102	SQ15-000613
81	1.1BCD	Singh	National Reserve System - Indigenous Protected Areas	<p>Senator SINGH: I want to ask questions in relation to IPAs, Indigenous protected areas. Am I in the right area? Mr Thompson: Program 1.1 was probably the program area there, rather than environmental regulation. As you might know, Indigenous protected areas are now a program administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: They are funded from the Natural Heritage Trust, but they are now within the—</p> <p>Mr Thompson: The Natural Heritage Trust, yes.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I thought it was on the Department of the</p>	129	SQ15-000621

				<p>Environment's website—the 60 declared Indigenous protected areas.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: They are part of the National Reserve System.Mr Thompson: They are part of the National Reserve System, so the policy responsibility relates to the department in terms of the carriage that we have of the National Reserve System. The program is administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: So I cannot ask those questions here?Mr Thompson: You can ask some questions, and we can attempt to answer them, but really it depends on the chair.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: It depends on the question too.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I want to know if there has been an increase in IPAs over the last five years.Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice—and compared to what period?</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I also want to know how many applications for IPAs have been received by the department in the last year.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: None, because we do not administer the program.</p>		
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82	1.4 WHM	McKim	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	<p>1. In what year was funding allocated to Tasmania for the RFA Priority Species Project to develop a strategic plan to protect swift parrots and identify their habitat? (According to the state DPIPWE site the project started in Feb 2010 and was supposed to run for three financial years.)</p> <p>2. Exactly how much money was allocated to the project and in particular development of the strategic plan?</p> <p>3. When did the department receive the final strategic plan?</p> <p>4. When will the final strategic plan be put into action?</p> <p>5. Why hasn't this plan been made public?</p>	Written	SQ15-000598
83	1.1 BCD	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - Escalation concerns	<p>1. Is the Department concerned about the escalation of Crown of Thorns starfish outbreaks?</p>	Written	SQ15-000643
84	1.4WHM	Urquhart	Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority - Committee Projects	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can you provide to the committee projects that have been approved by the trust? I am happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We will need to take that on notice.</p>	95	SQ15-000592

85	1.4 WHM	Singh	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Draft Management Plan	<p>Senator SINGH: Has the department had the opportunity of examining any of the submissions that have been made on the draft management plan?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Have all of those or any of those been made public?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: I won't pretend to give you definitive advice as to the status of all of the submissions that were made to the Tasmanian department.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Why?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: Because I am not familiar with the website of the department in question and I do not know personally whether all those submissions were made public or not. But we can take that on notice and come back to you with advice, of course.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: If you could take that on notice, that would be great. I think you said you were familiar with those submissions and you had examined some of them; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: The department has, yes.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: This department?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes.</p>	95	SQ15- 000593
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86	1.4 WHM	Singh	UNESCO Monitoring Mission	<p>Senator SINGH: In the interests of time, Mr Oxley, I would like you to take on notice what the expected outcomes from the mission will be. I ask you, because you did say to me in the May estimates that, even though budget issues have been delayed around the cultural values study or cultural heritage study, hopes were to get it kick-started very soon: has that allocation been funded yet and where is that study at?</p> <p>Mr Oxley: It has been funded. The study has not yet commenced. There has been quite extensive dialogue and engagement between the Tasmanian department, PIPWE, and Aboriginal groups in Tasmania. PIPWE is working very hard to have a cultural values study scoped that has the full endorsement of the Aboriginal community in Tasmania. That is not an easy thing to achieve.</p>	96	SQ15- 000594
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87	1.4WHM	McKim	Swift Parrot Strategic Species Plan	1. What is the current status of the Strategic Species Plan for the Swift Parrot, authored by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks and Water Environment?2. Has the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment provided a draft version of the Swift Parrot Strategic Species Plan to the Commonwealth, either through the Recovery Team or other channels?3. If not, what actions is the Commonwealth taking to ensure the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment provides the Swift Parrot Strategic Species Plan to the Commonwealth?4. What discussions are underway with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks and Water Environment regarding the Tasmanian department's continued participation in the Swift Parrot Recovery Team?	Written	SQ15-000597
88	1.4 WHM	Siewert	CITES proposals at 2016 COP	What species is Australia planning to propose or sponsor for CITES proposals at 2016 COP?	Written	SQ15-000600
89	1.4 WHM	Siewert	Common Assessment Methodology	Common Assessment Methodology: in the long term, are the plans to require states to adopt a Threatened Ecological Community category for listing and assessment of a collection of flora and fauna that exist in a community together?	Written	SQ15-000601

90	1.4 WHM	Rice	WA threatened species - Western Ringtail Possum, Forest Red- tailed Black Cockatoo	<p>1. Given that the Western Ringtail Possum is among the species threatened by continued logging of Western Australian karri forests, that we know the habitats of these two species are being clear-felled, and that in 2014 the Western Ringtail Possum was listed as endangered by the WA State Environment Minister, is the Threatened Species Scientific Committee considering an endangered or critically endangered nomination for the Western Ringtail Possum?</p> <p>2. Is the Threatened Species Scientific Committee considering an endangered or critically endangered nomination for the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo?</p>	Written	SQ15- 000631
91	1.4WHM	Rice	Spot-tailed Quoll	<p>1. At what stage is the Recovery Plan for the 'Thylacine of the mainland', the Spot-tailed Quoll?</p> <p>2. What resources are the Federal Government committing to for its recovery?</p> <p>3. Given the prolonged delay in producing a Recovery Plan, resulting in at least a decade of inaction on addressing the causal factors responsible for the species' ongoing decline, what immediate funding will be made available to start implementing the 'priority actions' listed in the Recovery Plan?</p>	Written	SQ15- 000632

92	1.5 ESD	Canavan	Conservation advices - original check dates	<p>Senator CANAVAN: I understand all that. I only have limited time. I apologise for cutting you off—I am not trying to be rude. I would prefer not to come back, but this is a very important issue. Can I ask on notice for the dates that you did those checks for the conservation orders—the original checks?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Also when the conservation orders were approved. What are they called—approved conservation orders?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Conservation advices.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: When the conservation advices were made, for both the skink and the snake; and when the minister made the approval for this particular project. It is probably sometime in 2014.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p>	131	SQ15- 000509
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93	1.5ESD	Canavan	Process with Material - Adani decision	<p>Senator CANAVAN: What have you done internally to review these processes? If I were in your position and I found out this had happened I would have hit the roof. What happened after that? I will be more direct—who is to blame for this? Because this is a monumental stuff up.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I am responsible. I am the secretary of the department, so I ultimately bear responsibility. We had a discussion inside the department about how this occurred. The officers discussed it and raised it with me. When these things happen, if you institute a culture of blame and focusing on whose head will roll, to put it that way, you generate a culture where people become inward looking and risk averse and they do not take responsibility.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: I will wrap it up. We will have to come back on this. Could I get the date that you were informed of this particular lack of material—that the material had not been provided?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p>	132	SQ15-000508
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94	1.5 ESD	Waters	Bilateral Agreements - Standard Operating Procedure	<p>Senator WATERS: You said you changed the standard operating procedure. Is this the first time that has been applied?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No, it has been applied for several months now to a range of projects.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: How many other coal mines have received this new changed standard condition?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I do not have the information on that but we could get back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you, because I have not noticed it before and I pay reasonably close attention, as I am sure you do too. You will take that on notice and you genuinely cannot given me any indication of—</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: All right.</p>	133	SQ15- 000624
95	1.5ESD	Waters	Standard Conditions for new coal mine approvals	<p>Ms Callister: We do not have specific figures on that but it is a new standard condition that is now being applied as a matter of course to all our new approvals. As Mr Knudson said, we do not believe that it is reducing the standards. One of the important requirements is that the companies report on when they make these changes and that allows us to review what those changes are and if we think they are sufficient and material enough for us to do further review, we can call those plans in for a more detailed review. That is an important safeguard.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. When did those new standard conditions come in?</p> <p>Ms Callister: We think approximately three or four</p>	133	SQ15- 000648

				months ago. We can take that on notice.		
96	1.5 ESD	Waters	EPBC Offsets Policy	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. The timing for delivery of the offsets for the black-throated finch under the old condition was two years after the first impact on the site and that condition has been retained in the second and current approval and yet the EPBC offsets policy says that it is preferable to have the offsets secured before the impact occurs. How can you describe two years after as Minister Hunt's strictest environmental condition?</p> <p>Ms Callister: I would have to check through the conditions in detail but it is not uncommon for us to require the offsets to be identified and the plan to be presented in advance of the impact, but then allowing some additional time for that to be secured in law under covenant. That is quite a standard approach and that often just reflects that it can take some time to get that through the relevant state government processes to secure those offsets in law, but we do require the offsets strategies and the offsets to be identified up front in advance of the impact.</p>	134	SQ15-000623
97	1.5 ESD	Siewert	Shark Nets	If shark nets are extended to NSW north coast will the Environment Minister be calling in the expansion for assessment under the EPBC Act?	Written	SQ15-000602

98	1.6ESD	Ronaldson	National Clean Air Agreement	<p>Senator RONALDSON: I understand that the government is ahead of schedule on the National Clean Air Agreement with the states, which is terrific news. Can you take on notice how such an agreement will deliver improvements in air quality across Australia? I understand that the Packaging Impacts Decision Regulation Impact Statement had some comments about national regulation. Did it show that the existing arrangements, including the Australia packaging covenant, had been delivering improved outcomes? If you can take that on notice for me, please. I gather there is a review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme which exposed a number of flaws. Can you take on notice how the government plans to help e-waste recyclers, please.</p>	113	SQ15-000619
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99	1.6 Science	Urquhart	State of the Environment Report - Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Habitat	<p>Senator URQUHART: What research is being done for the report on the impact on ecosystems of climate refugee species or species that are migrating into new regions as they follow the changing weather trends caused by climate change?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Certainly some work has been undertaken by the CSIRO on the potential impacts of climate change on habitat and then the implications of that flowing through for species migration, including where we might find refugium for particular native species and where other species might likely become dominant. So we are drawing on that work. In fact, that was work that was funded through another program area in the department in climate change and we are drawing on that work, for example, in our analysis to underpin 20 million trees and the rollout of large-scale plantings in the 20 million trees program and in other areas such as the national reserve system and the future shape of the national reserve system.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So is it just the CSIRO that are doing that research? Are there any others?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: That is the only one I am aware of. There may be others through the national climate change adaptation research program.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to take on notice whether there are any others and provide that later?</p>	64	SQ15-000570
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100	1.6Science	Urquhart	OSS - Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee	<p>Senator URQUHART: How many positions are on that committee?</p> <p>Mr McAllister: The Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee? We might have to take that one on notice. There are 10 members and deputy members but there are some ex-officio positions as well.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You may want to take the detail of that on notice. Perhaps you can also add a little more clarity to the length of time that they have been vacant when you provide that on notice—</p>	69	SQ15-000572
101	1.6 Science	Urquhart	OSS - Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee	<p>Senator URQUHART: The Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee has four positions vacant, I understand; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr McAllister: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How long have they been vacant?</p> <p>Mr McAllister: Again each individual one would be different.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you want to take that one on notice and give us some more details?</p>	69	SQ15-000576
102	1.6 Science	Ludlam	Landform Modelling	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Given that we are a bit short of time, are you able to provide us on notice with a summary of where the process is up to at the moment, who the key players are and what OSS sees as the next steps? In the past we have had some quite hypothetical discussions about what happens if mining ceases on site. I hope you would agree that they have become much less hypothetical, even in the last few weeks.</p> <p>Mr McAllister: In terms of scope in relation to what activities are occurring for closure?</p>	72	SQ15-000578

				Senator LUDLAM: Yes.		
103	1.6Science	Waters	Chemicals Used in Coal Sean Gas Extraction	<p>Senator WATERS: Can you answer all the other questions I asked as well, please? They are: what is the time frame; will it end up as guidelines; how will the guidelines fit into the regulatory system; do they cover all fracking, or just CSG; and are they mandatory?</p> <p>Dr Wright: As part of the chemicals assessment project we have been looking to develop guidelines that could be picked up by jurisdictions when those assessments are released, and we were looking to have some guidelines drafted for consultation processes at about the same time as the report goes out, so it can be seen to have a use and it can encourage consideration and debate. That is currently in progress, but it is at quite an early stage.</p> <p>Mr Whitfort: It is at quite an early stage, and the US EPA has not had a role in developing those guidelines.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Was it just for CSG, or for all fracking?</p> <p>Dr Wright: The chemical assessment is just for CSG.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you can provide me with any more detail about that on notice, that would be very helpful.</p>	127	SQ15-000622
104	1.6 Science	McKim	Environmental Information and Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many projects about threatened species have received conditional approval under the program? 2. Which species did these projects cover? How much money was conditionally approved for the projects? 3. Re the swift parrot project, how many stakeholders were required to give approval before the project could proceed? 4. How many of these stakeholders have given approval? How many have rejected it? 	Written	SQ15-000599

				<p>5. What were the reasons for rejection?</p> <p>6. Will the National Environmental Science Program pursue approval of this project in future?</p>		
105	2.1 CCRED	Waters	INDC 2030 Proposed Target	<p>Senator WATERS: Can you confirm that 2005 was our highest emitting year?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I don't think it was. I thought it was another year, but around there. I will come back to you, Senator.</p>	82	SQ15-000588
106	2.1CCRED	Waters	Windfarm Commissioner	<p>Senator WATERS: Thank you. Just before we leave that tranche, how much will the panellists on the scientific panel be paid?</p> <p>Dr Dickson: I would have to ask. It is Remuneration Tribunal standard sitting fees. I am not sure what they are. We will come back with details on that.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We will come back on notice as soon as we can with the specific level that they will be paid at.</p>	83	SQ15-000589

107	2.1 CCRED	Waters	LNG Plants	<p>Senator WATERS: One final question—I will put the rest on notice. Are offshore LNG plants, like Browse and Shell's Prelude project, counted in our emissions or not? Given that there is obviously a proposed ramp-up in production, would those proposed emissions be taken into account in your forecasting of whether we can meet our 2020 and indeed our 2030 targets?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: If they are in Australian waters, they would be taken into account. If there is some complication there, perhaps I could take that on notice. But in principle, if they are in Australian waters, we would count the emissions, yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: And likewise are they factored into the 2020 projections?</p> <p>CHAIR: Is this another question?</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Sorry, it is the second part of my question. Is there an answer to that?</p> <p>CHAIR: Make it quick.</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: Sorry, which was the—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Whether or not we can meet our 2030 and 2020 targets, the proposed expanded—</p> <p>CHAIR: Can Mr Sturgiss take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: The anticipation is yes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p>	86	SQ15-000590
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108	2.1CCRED	Back	Greenhoue Gas Emissions	<p>Senator BACK: One last question, unrelated to the question that I have just been asking, and going back to bushfires: does the department try to make some estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the major bushfires that we encounter? I am not speaking now of the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement scheme; I am familiar with that—but just areas burnt, biomass that has been destroyed, fire intensity, et cetera. Do you try to assess or establish some sort of even a guesstimate through a fire season of the greenhouse gases that are emitted as a result of our major bushfires?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: The answer is yes, we do. We publish these estimates in the submission we prepare for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which we publish each April. The methods are quite similar to the estimates on land clearing; we use satellite imagery to track fire scars. We combine with expert assessment of the fuel loads in place.</p> <p>Senator BACK: They are available on your website, are they?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: The emission estimates are included in our report that we publish on the website.</p> <p>Senator BACK: They are easily identified in these reports?</p> <p>Mr Sturgiss: They are easily identified. Maybe we could assist in that.</p> <p>Senator BACK: If you could assist, I would be appreciative.</p>	81-82	SQ15-000612
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109	2.1 ERF	Singh	Emission Reduction Methods	<p>Ms Lea-Perry: Since the first auction in April, we have been continuing to add new methods to the suite of ERF methods that are available for use. Those methods that have been added since the April ERF auction have continue to expand on the range of land sector methods that were available from the former carbon farming initiative. There is, for example, a facilities method that is now available for large facilities. Some additional energy efficiency methods have come on stream that cover activities such as replacing lighting for lighting projects. We have continued to create new methods in the agricultural sector. There is a new method out now for herb management that has recently become available. Other methods, such as land and sea transport, have come on stream. So we have been focusing mostly on expanding the methods that are available in addition to those that were available for the land sector.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Do you have a list of those methods that you could provide to the committee? That would be great, thank you.</p>	79	SQ15- 000579
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110	2.1ERF	Waters	Limiting Fugitive Emissions	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. The great bulk of forecast growth in emissions is from the LNG sector in Queensland, both from the primary energy used for extraction as well as for fugitive emissions. Is there anything that ARENA is looking at in the field of limiting fugitive emissions caused by mining for gas or for coal?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: No. We are not focused on that at the moment. In fact, it is outside our mandate.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay, so you cannot do that even if you wanted to. Right.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Unless—</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: The ERF is focused on that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: On fugitives?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes. On methods for extracting methane from coal seams, for example.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Given the time, could you take on notice to ask the relevant folk to get me some more details on those projects?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p>	110	SQ15-000618
111	3. AAD	Singh	Protecting Antarctica	<p>Senator SINGH: What projects received grants, how many applications were received for the grants and who determined who received the grants?</p> <p>Dr Gales: It is probably best, senator, if, on notice, I provide you with a list of all of the projects that were funded and that were supported through this last round, if that is acceptable to you?</p>	47	SQ15-000546

112	3.AAD	Singh	AAD - Committees	<p>Senator SINGH: That would be good. On the two committees, do you also have a list of who makes up the committees? How is that determined?</p> <p>Dr Gales: Yes, we do. I will provide you with that full list. Essentially, the research areas cover off against understanding the role of Antarctica in the global climate system. So we ensure that we have people who are leaders in that broad range of science, and we make sure we have people who understand some of the modelling that goes into the sustainability science, if you like—the fishery science and human impact science. They are drawn from the university sector, in particular, around Australia. As far as possible, we obviously manage conflicts of interest carefully and make sure we try and draw people in who do not have active projects in Antarctica and are able to provide good, independent advice. We also have an external peer review. The projects go out to at least two—typically international, sometimes national—scientists, for a peer review round, and are then assessed by the two committees.</p>	47	SQ15-000649
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113	ARENA	Singh	ARENA and CEFC Joint Ventures	<p>Senator SINGH: Are you able to provide details of the joint ventures between ARENA and the CEFC?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Absolutely. I can talk about some of the projects generally and give you a sense of how we work together or I can provide you details on notice. We invest across the entire innovation chain, from R&D, the very early stages, through to demonstration—ocean deployment of new technologies, for example—and then there are the near-commercial deployments, not yet fully commercial. It is that last phase in which we work together with the CEFC. It is kind of like a relay race where, when you are passing the baton, you have to run together for a while, and it is during that last phase where ARENA and the CEFC run together. This is primarily large-scale solar. In the large-scale solar space, the projects are commercially financeable—indeed, that is one of the things that we are trying to demonstrate. Thereby, the CEFC gets involved as a debt provider—and sometimes as a co-debt provider with commercial debt providers—and yet there is still a grant required to make the project commercially viable. That grant comes from us. For example, the Moree Solar Farm includes both ARENA funding and the CEFC. There are a number of others that I could list where that model applies.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Is that information on those other kind of projects, the collaboration and examples such as Moree, available for the committee?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: We have written about that. It is on our website; it is publicly available. It is generally our large-</p>	108	SQ15-000616
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				<p>scale projects. A mining project called Sandfire out in Western Australia, for example, is another one.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I think I saw that. I went to the showcase that ARENA had here in Parliament House.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Excellent.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: I did get familiar with a number of projects.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Would you like us to provide you with more details?</p> <p>Senator SINGH: That is always helpful—yes.</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: Okay. We will take that on notice.</p>		
114	ARENA	Waters	Differences in costs between solar and diesel generation	<p>Senator WATERS: ...On your project with Rio to provide solar power for their bauxite mine in Weipa, can you tell me what the current cost differential between solar and diesel generation is for greenfield mining projects?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: For that particular project, if you are interested in the details, we would have to take it on notice. However, in general what I can tell you is that for mining projects, if there is either a brownfield or a greenfield project, typically you would save money simply by displacing diesel with solar. However, that is fairly low-penetration solar—in other words, no storage involved and no fancy control system. It simply looks like negative load to the diesel generator. In other words, the load goes down a little bit, and in that process you save some money through displacing diesel.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you extrapolate from that how long you think it would be for solar to be cost competitive</p>	109	SQ15-000617

				<p>with diesel?</p> <p>Mr Frischknecht: It is cost competitive in that scenario. Where it is not yet cost competitive, and the reason we have to provide some grants to these mining interests, is that often they are extremely conservative and they want to make sure that they have a high level of diesel redundancy, even while the solar is being proven. Over a number of years we expect that the solar will be proven and that therefore they will not have to have that level of redundancy.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay.</p>		
115	BOM	McAllister	BOM - Capital Program Budget	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Besides those main pieces of equipment, where are we relative to other countries that offer a service such as yours?</p> <p>Dr Vertessy: We would have to take that on notice, but I can give you a few broad indicators. We are a very large country, of course, so we need to cover a large swathe of land, but we do not have anywhere near the density of observations that smaller countries like the UK or richer countries like the US have. Our radar network stands out, I suppose, as the fourth largest in the world. We have just under 60 weather radars at the moment. So Australians are generally quite well served. We are fortunate that we do not have to run our own weather satellite. We obtain free satellite information from international partners, which really helps. We have a network of about 700-plus automatic weather stations around the country, but there are large gaps in areas that are generally unpopulated. It is a little hard to benchmark ourselves</p>	22	SQ15-000566

				with different countries because they are always different in size, economics et cetera.		
116	BOM	Canavan	Python Code	<p>Senator CANAVAN: And the Python code that will be available in a link been made available?</p> <p>Dr Vertessy: I believe that has been made available already, yes. Again, I just need to be able to confirm that.</p>	24	SQ15-000567
117	CCA	Waters		<p>Ms Thompson: Certainly the 40 per cent to 60 per cent range that you mentioned was one of the findings of the authority in its targets report—the draft report was released in April and then the final in early July. In terms of saying whether it was roughly double, I do not have that particular analysis in front of me. We would have to go back and have a look at the various baselines and how that goes.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Would you mind taking that on notice? I understand that the 26 per cent to 28 per cent reduction on 2005 levels equates to about a 19.3 per cent reduction on 2000 levels.</p> <p>Ms Thompson: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: That is less than half of the 40 per cent to 60 per cent.</p> <p>Ms Thompson: Yes, it is in that range. But we can take that on notice and confirm it.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you could, on notice, confirm that 19.3 is indeed less than half of 40, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Ms Thompson: That would be maths.</p>	106	SQ15-000615

118	CER	Back	ERF - Registered Projects	<p>Senator BACK: With the Emissions Reduction Fund, can you give us a little information on how many projects have been registered, what types of projects they are and perhaps you can take on notice and give us some examples of projects that have now been registered under the ERF?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I can start with that. We have a table here that we could hand over at the end of the comments. The projects range right across Australia. The total number of projects is about 440 or 450, of that order. The number of credits that have been issued against those projects is currently around 16.3 million credits. They range across the forestry sector, landfill, livestock, there is fire management in the north, savanna fire management, the transport sector, soil carbon, electricity, and the mining and aviation sectors. We are starting to see very broad coverage across the economy in a range of projects around the country. Nearly every state now has a project or some projects registered in them. I think every state now has projects registered in them. So there is good coverage both sectorally and geographically under the ERF.</p>	80	SQ15-000586
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119	CER	Waters	Use of native forest biomass by renewable energy power stations	<p>Senator WATERS: Hello there, folks. Thank you for being with us today. I have a number of questions on some different issues. Firstly, on biomass, are you aware of any proposals or applications for certification or registration for projects that would generate RECs from burning native forest biomass?</p> <p>Ms Munro: Since the change in the legislation and regulations, we have not received any applications for accreditation of a power station specifically to burn native timber biomass.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has anyone expressed any interest at all? Have there been any approaches, if not that formal application?</p> <p>Ms Munro: I might ask Mark Williamson to pick that up.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: We have been conducting a survey with those power stations that, through the transitional provisions, are potentially able to. We do not have all those survey results back yet. Some are keeping their options open in some of the survey results; some have said a flat 'no'. To back up Ms Munro's comments, at this stage we are not seeing any new demand.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you take on notice for me which ones have said a flat 'no' and which ones have kept their options open, if you are able to reveal that information to us. Could I just check which list Hazelwood in particular is on?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I do not believe we have had a response yet on that one.</p>	104	SQ15-000614
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120	CER	Back	Rooftop Solar Systems	<p>Senator BACK: Do you have a figure or some approximation of how many households in Australia have rooftop solar systems?</p> <p>Ms Munro: I think my colleague Mr Williamson probably has that number at his fingertips.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: It is just under 1.5 million systems, currently, in terms of solar PV. Hot water systems are on top of that.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Hot water systems are on top of that?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Correct.</p> <p>Senator BACK: What percentage of Australian households does that 1.5 million translate to?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I am not quite sure what that percentage is, but we can certainly check that. It is quite a high penetration, though.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Thank you very much.</p>	105	SQ15-000596
121	CER	Back	RET Certificates	<p>1. Referring to previous questions 111 regarding RET certificates issued and yet to be surrendered, would you please provide updated information giving recent figures?</p>	Written	SQ15-000542
122	CER	Back	Daily spot price of Large-scale Generation Certificates (LGCs)	<p>1. Does the CER keep a record of the daily spot price of LGCs?</p>	Written	SQ15-000543
123	CER	Back	Cost benefit analysis of the current RET target	<p>1. Has the Clean Energy Regulator undertaken a cost/benefit analysis of the current RET target? If so, would you please advise of the results. If not, please undertake an analysis.</p>	Written	SQ15-000544

124	CER	Back	Cost benefit analysis of a 50 per cent RET target	1. Has the Clean Energy Regulator undertaken a cost/benefit analysis of a 50% RET target? If so, would you please advise of the results. If not, please undertake an analysis.	Written	SQ15-000545
125	CER	Rice	Native Forest Biomass and the RET	Given that the definition of 'wood waste' with the Renewable Energy Target was amended to include native forest biomass as an eligible renewable energy source:1. Which organisations have applied for Renewable Energy certificates for native forest biomass projects?2. How many RECs involving native forest biomass have been issued overall?3. Based on applications to date, what percentage of renewable energy would be generated under the RET from native forest biomass sources? 4. Please provide a state by state breakdown of where the biomass would come from? 5. Which large scale coal-fired power stations have applied for RECs to use native forest biomass for co-generation?6. How many staff are allocated to oversight of the projects and ensuring the high value clause is being met?	Written	SQ15-000633
126	4.2 CEWO	Xenophon	Water Licensing	1. Making reference to Marsden Jacob Associates having been engaged by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office to undertake a scoping study into services that are provided by water market exchanges and brokers (intermediaries) across the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) which has been classified as 'commercial-in-confidence' at the request of intermediaries. 2. Does the Scoping consider the behaviour of	Written	SQ15-000644

				intermediaries in the pricing of water to be on sold?		
127	4.2 CEWO	Xenophon	Water Licensing	1. Does the scoping study investigate the risks of water prices rising due to being a tradeable commodity?	Written	SQ15-000645
128	4.2 CEWO	Xenophon	Water Licensing	Is the Department aware of having traded water to private investors who have then unsold to end-users, such as farmers, at an increased cost?	Written	SQ15-000647
129	Corporate CSD	Singh	Cities Taskforce - Staff Complement	<p>Senator SINGH: What will the full staff complement be of the task force? Can we have a breakdown of what agencies they will be part of?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We do not know at this stage.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Yes.</p>	10	SQ15-000563
130	1.5ESD	Waters	Coal Seam Gas	<p>Senator WATERS: I understand. Given that that department does not have expertise in climate issues or health issues, would they normally seek advice from other departments in order to prepare a comprehensive briefing for their minister?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: In general, we would work with departments to supplement that briefing as required. That is normal. We work closely with each other.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Have you yet been asked to do that for Minister Frydenberg?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I am not aware of that. I would have to take that on notice. There are always ongoing discussions between departments around these matters, but I would have to take that on notice.</p>	12	SQ15-000565

131	Cities Taskforce	Gallacher	Cities Taskforce	<p>1. As of December 31, 2015, how many meetings of the Cities Taskforce have been held?</p> <p>2. What have been the main areas of discussion, as shown on the agenda?</p> <p>3. Which cities have been specifically discussed?</p> <p>4. What is the taskforce definition of "city"?</p> <p>5. How often are meetings planned?</p> <p>6. When is the next meeting?</p>	Written	SQ15-000646
132	Corporate CSD	Urquhart	Discretionary Grants Program	<p>Senator URQUHART: Do you have a breakdown of the different types of grants and who actually makes the decisions or is it a moving target?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: No, it is typically well known. For all grants programs we have to publish guidelines that specify who the decision maker is. Typically it is the minister.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to provide a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Sure, we can provide that.</p>	7	SQ15-000609
133	CorporateCSD	Xenophon	ICT Sustainability Plan and recycled paper	<p>Senator XENOPHON: But it seems now that that has been abandoned. Even that encouragement for using recycled paper has been abandoned. I won't use a pejorative term like 'abandoned'. It is no longer in place.</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: While the ICT plan is no longer in place, there is certainly an encouragement to recycle through the national waste policy.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: But it is not as clear and unambiguous as the previous policy, is it not?</p> <p>Ms Wiley-Smith: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	18	SQ15-000650

134	Corporate CSD	Xenophon	Recycled Paper Policy	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Minister, could you please take notice, therefore, the trends in the use of recycled paper amongst government departments in the lead up to the ICT policy plan of 2010 to 2015 and what the trends have been since that time. Because if you say that it is a continuing trend, I would be interested to find out. I take you on your word.</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Because I am obliging, I am happy to take it on notice and see what we can do. Given that it is not being mandated or reported against, it may not be an easy thing to bring together.</p>	18	SQ15-000557
135	CorporateCSD	Xenophon	Recycled Paper Policy	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Let me put these questions on notice. I would like to know when the government's department procurement officers, and external stakeholders and the public were informed, if they were at all, that the policy was ceasing. The second supplementary, within my one-minute, Chair, is if they are aware of recent comments from the company Australian Paper and the Australian Forest Products Association's media release, which is quite scathing of the policy and the \$90 million investment at the Maryvale mill? Thirdly, Minister, I'll put this to you: your coalition colleague Darren Chester said that he found it 'appalling' that government workplaces do not buy Australian made paper.Senator Birmingham: In terms of when people were aware that the policy would be ceasing, my understanding is the plan was entitled the Sustainability Plan 2010–15. I assume that anybody who picked the document up from the time of the publication</p>	19	SQ15-000558

				in 2009 or 2010, or thereabouts, would have been aware that it ceased in 2015.		
136	CorporateCSD	Urquhart	MOG Transfer of Water to Agriculture	<p>Senator URQUHART: So that is a question for Agriculture. Okay. What cost will the department incur because of the transition of water to the Department of Agriculture?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: I am not really sure how to answer that. We have to go through the machinery-of-government changes. That is a normal feature, frankly, of administration. I do not know what the specific—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is there a cost, though, to transferring those sections?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We transfer over the staff and, as we said at the start of today, pro rataed corporate and other capital support would move over.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How has that staffing been affected?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: Frankly, it is a normal part of administration. Machinery-of-government changes happen regularly.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay, but how have staff been affected? How many have gone over?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: I think Mr Slatyer answered that earlier today.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: It was about 150 or so staff of water division who moved over. It will be on the record from this morning, but it was around 150.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: And costs?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: That moves over as part of—</p>	115	SQ15-000620

				<p>Senator URQUHART: What were those costs?</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We will take that on notice.</p>		
137	CorporateCSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16 - AP & AFPA Media Releases	<p>1. The department responded to a written question from Senator Carr that the Department had not received any representations about the desirability of retaining the ICT Sustainability Plan from industry or stakeholders...2. Were you aware of recent comments from the company Australian Paper (AP) and the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) media release? Stating that: • “Our investment (referring to a \$90 million deinking and recycling plant at their Maryvale mill) was partly made on the government's commitment to using 100 per cent recycled paper” ... and...• “With one stroke of a pen the government has put that investment at risk...” (Referring to the decision to cease the ICT sustainability) And the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) media release which stated: “Turnbull Government must reinstate recycled paper commitment”</p>	Written	SQ15-000603
138	Corporate CSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16	1. Has the department met with AP and or the AFPA in the last 24 months about Government paper procurement? Is so when?	Written	SQ15-000604
139	Corporate CSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16	1. Was the desirability of retaining the ICT sustainability plan represented to the department at any of these meetings by AP or AFPA?	Written	SQ15-000605

140	CorporateCSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16	<p>In April 2014- the Department of the Environment appeared before the inquiry initiated by Senator Madigan and myself in which I asked:“I do not know if you have had a chance to read Mr Hampton's evidence at all?” ...In which Mr Blake from the Department stated “we have” ...Mr Hampton’s (the Chief Executive of the AFPA) evidence included: “The domestic pulp and paper industry is rightly proud of its high environmental and social standards and is uniquely positioned to meet a range of related sustainability policies, such as the Australian government Information and Communications Technology Sustainability Plan and the National Waste Policy. I will address these things in just a moment. These policies are designed to restrict waste and encourage recycling in Australia, which should be an important consideration in the purchasing of consumables such as Australian office paper. Unfortunately, following a range of visits undertaken by our organisation to a number of Australian government departments here in Canberra, there does appear to be a general lack of appreciation and consideration of these factors in these important paper-purchasing decisions. We would therefore recommend that stronger measures be put in place to ensure the adequate consideration and implementation of the existing sustainability policies and guidelines within Australian government departments and agencies. This would go some way to ensuring that the high environmental standards and other environmental benefits from using Australian paper products are fully</p>	Written	SQ15-000606
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				considered in purchasing decisions."Does the Department concede that they were aware of AFPA's position that they wanted the policy kept and enforced?		
141	CorporateCSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16	1. I have correspondence with me that suggests the CFMEU presented to Government the fact that Australian Paper (including its submission to the procurement inquiry) and its workers thought it was desirable to keep the procurement connected policies of both the national waste policy and the ICT sustainability plan because of their view it was important to jobs in the paper industry- this representation was made shortly after the commission of audit recommended the abolition of all procurement connected policies in May 2014.It would appear from the paper trail that the correspondence was referred by Gippsland MP Darren Chester, to former Special Minister of State Senator Ronaldson who in turn took the matter up with Finance Minister Cormann.A letter from Minister Cormann to Minister Chester states: "Minister Hunt has responsibility for the National Waste Policy and the ICT Sustainability Policy. I intend to consult with Minister Hunt in relation to the future of those policies"Can we take from your answer from previous Estimates that the representations made were never referred to the Department by Minister Hunt or elsewhere?If so, does the Department know if this was because the promised intended consultations between Ministers Cormann and Hunt about the future of the policies did not occur? Alternatively then did those	Written	SQ15-000607

				consultations occur but were the representation which came from industry and stakeholders ignored? To what extent was the department involved in these consultations between Ministers Cormann and Hunt?		
142	Corporate CSD	Xenophon	The Australian government ICT sustainability plan 2010-16	<p>In a media report dated October 5, it says: “A spokesperson for the Commonwealth's Department of the Environment said the plan was a "guidance document" which had now lapsed.”</p> <p>Do you agree that this would seem to contradict an answer provided to me by Department of Environment in the Senate inquiry into Commonwealth Procurement Procedures which stated: “The Plan is government policy and compliance is mandatory for FMA Agencies...?”</p>	Written	SQ15-000608
143	CorporateCSD	Bilyk	Ministerial Functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by the Environment Minister in 2015, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister’s family or personal staff; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs; • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	SQ15-000626

144	Corporate CSD	Bilyk	Ministerial International Travel	<p>In relation to any international travel undertaken in 2015 by the Environment Minister, can the following please be provided to the Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of the itinerary for each overseas trip; • An itemised list of the costs of each trip including the class of travel for any flights; • Copies of receipts for any food or beverages that the Minister consumed at taxpayer expense during each trip; • Copies of receipts for any self-drive hire cars or chauffeured services utilised by the Minister during each trip; • Copies of receipts for any other ground transport; • Copies of receipts for any hotel accommodation; and • Details of any spouse travel. 	Written	SQ15- 000627
145	Corporate CSD	Bilyk	Secretary's speeches to staff	Can a copy of any speeches delivered by the Secretary of the Department at any staff meetings in 2015 please be provided?	Written	SQ15- 000628
146	Corporate CSD	Bilyk	Secretary's office upgrades	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office been upgraded in 2015? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?	Written	SQ15- 000629

147	CorporateCSD	Rice	ICT Sustainability Plan and recycled paper	<p>With regard to the recent changes to the ICT Sustainability Plan, which outlined that all government operations use 100% recycled paper by July 2015: 1. Have new government operations paper contracts been signed, and if so for which paper product?2. What will replace Guideline 4 - recycled paper of the ICT Sustainability Plan?3. What savings are projected, if any, as a result of not preferencing 100% recycled paper?4. If not by specifying recycled paper, how will the government support environmentally sustainable paper use in its operations?</p>	Written	SQ15-000630
148	CorporateCSD	Ludwig	Departmental Rebranding	<p>1. Has the department/Agency undergone a name change or any other form of rebranding since the leadership change in September, 2015? If so:</p> <p>a. Please detail why this name change / rebrand were considered necessary and a justified use of departmental funds?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Please provide a copy of any reports that were commissioned to study the benefits and costs associated with the rebranding.</p> <p>b. Please provide the total cost associated with this rebrand and then break down by amount spent replacing:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Signage.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Stationery (please include details of existing stationery and how it was disposed of).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii. Logos.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iv. Consultancy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">v. Any relevant IT changes.</p>	Written	SQ15-000634

				<p>vi. Office reconfiguration.</p> <p>c. How was the decision reached to rename and/or rebrand the department?</p> <p>i. Who was involved in reaching this decision?</p> <p>li. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) from within the department, or between the department and the government regarding the rename/rebranding.</p> <p>2. Following the changes does the department share any goods/services/accommodation with other departments?</p> <p>3. What resources/services does the department share with other departments; are there plans to cease sharing the sharing of these resources/services?</p> <p>4. What were the costs to the department prior to the Machinery of Government changes for these shared resources? What are the estimated costs after the ceasing of shared resource arrangements?</p>		
149	CorporateCSD	Ludwig	Staffing - employment of non-Australian citizens	<p>I refer you to section 22 (8) of the Public Service Act 1999 which says: "An Agency Head must not engage, as an APS employee, a person who is not an Australian citizen, unless the Agency Head considers it appropriate to do so."</p> <p>1. Does the department have guidelines or similar to assist Agency Heads to assess when it is appropriate to hire non-Australian citizens? If no, do individual agencies have their own guidelines? If yes to either:</p> <p>a. Please provide a copy.</p> <p>b. When did they come into effect?</p>	Written	SQ15-000635

				<p>c. Can Agency Heads decide to go against the advice? If yes, under what circumstances?</p> <p>2. Are Agency Heads required to provide a reason to anyone for hiring non-Australian citizens? If yes:</p> <p>a. Who are they required to report the reason to?</p> <p>b. Does this reporting happen before or after the hire has been made?</p> <p>c. Is this reason provided in writing? If no, how is it provided?</p> <p>d. Can you please provide a list of reasons that have been used since the Federal election in September, 2013.</p> <p>3. Are there any provisions to over-rule a Head of Agency's decision to hire a non-Australian citizen? If yes:</p> <p>a. Who can over-rule this decision?</p> <p>b. Under what circumstances can it be over-ruled?</p> <p>c. How many times has this occurred since the Federal election in September, 2013.</p>		
150	Corporate CSD	Ludwig	Ministerial Personalised Stationery	1. Since the leadership change in September, 2015, how much has been spent by the Ministerial office on personalised stationery for the Minister and the Minister's staff? Please provide a cost breakdown by type of stationery purchased and the quantity of each and whether it was for the Minister or for staff.	Written	SQ15-000637

151	1.5ESD	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire	1. Who will be conducting the investigation? Will it be independent from government? 2. Will it be internal? 3. Will key stakeholders, including the Mirarr traditional owners and other local Aboriginal people, be given an opportunity to present to the inquiry? 4. Will the public be able to submit to the inquiry? 5. Will the outcomes of the investigation be made public?	Written	SQ15-000549
152	1.5 ESD	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire	1. What punitive measures might the company face in the way of prosecution? 2. Media reports state the company could be fined over \$8 million, is that so? 3. Under what statute would the company be prosecuted?	Written	SQ15-000550
153	1.5 ESD	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire	What steps will be taken now to prevent this occurring again next year?	Written	SQ15-000551
154	GBRMPA	Waters	Compliance Action Plan 2015-16 & Strategic Plan	Mr Elliot: We have also developed, and are now implementing this year, a compliance action plan for 2015-16. Sitting behind that is the broader compliance strategy, which goes for five years. I can provide both those documents as well, if you would like. Senator WATERS: Yes, thank you. I would like that very much. I assume from that that those two documents—the compliance action plan and the strategic plan that sits behind it—are not public, but you can give them to us? Mr Elliot: Yes, they are not on our website, but I can provide them.	36	SQ15-000569

155	GBRMPA	Waters	Reef Plan - Maintenance Dredging Framework	<p>Senator WATERS: In relation to the maintenance dredging framework referenced in the reef plan, could you give me an update on how much work has been done on that so far? How many folk are working on it? What sort of time frame are you working to?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: That is being led by one of the Queensland agencies who have engaged with us in that process. At the moment there have not been any preliminary documents created for us to review, but we certainly have been engaged and we will certainly be involved in the development of the framework.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Just so that I understand: your anticipated role in that process is to review documents. What are you expecting to do, in relation to that framework?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: We are expecting to provide advice into the process. I believe that many of the documents themselves are being developed by consultants. So we will provide advice into the development of those documents and we will provide comment on those documents, as we normally would for the development of policies or frameworks that are being led by either another Commonwealth agency or a state agency.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Do you know what time frame that process is working to?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	38	SQ15-000571
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156	GBRMPA	Waters	Reef Plan - Maintenance Dredging Projections	<p>Senator WATERS: My last question in this line of questioning is: do the projections for maintenance dredging show the amounts increasing or decreasing over the next, say, five years?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: The projections I have seen have them fairly consistent with what they have been for the last decade or so. They have been reasonably consistent. They do go up and down from year to year, of course, because extreme weather has an impact on maintenance-dredging volume.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you take on notice to provide me with as much detail of the projections as you can?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: Yes.</p>	38	SQ15-000573
157	GBRMPA	Waters	Marine Park - Permit decisions	<p>Senator WATERS: On notice for me, could you just provide a bit more detail about the breakdown of the nature of the permits; in particular, the dredging and dumping permits as opposed to the general fishing and what have you. I am very happy to come back.</p>	39	SQ15-000574
158	GBRMPA	Urquhart	Crown-of-thorns-starfish - Eradication Program	<p>Senator URQUHART: I want to get back to the crown-of-thorns starfish. How many crown-of-thorns starfish were destroyed last financial year?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: I can get you the figure in one second. I understand it is about 360,000.</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: But that would be over a period of—</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Over the last 18 months.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I am talking about the last financial year. Do you have that broken down?</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: I do not think that I have it broken down into years, no.</p>	40	SQ15-000577

				<p>Mr Thompson: The department does not have that breakdown either. We have a number of 380,000 crown-of-thorns starfish killed to date through the various—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: 380,000?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, through the whole program.</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: Through the program.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, it is 2012, 2013—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Since 2012?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You do not do a yearly breakdown?</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: We would have those numbers, but we just do not have them here.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you able to get that information?</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: By the end of today?</p> <p>Ms M Johnson: Yes.</p>		
159	GBRMPA	Waters	Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd permit	<p>Senator WATERS: Thanks, Chair. Just going back to Yabulu, you say that nothing has changed in terms of the permit. Has any compliance action been undertaken by GBRMPA?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: I would have to take that on notice. We do have a compliance program. Given that they are not permitted to use the pipeline, any compliance would just be confirming that they have not used the pipe. As far as I know, there has been no discharge. But I would have to take the question on notice to confirm what compliance action may have been taken.</p>	41	SQ15-000581

160	GBRMPA	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorn Starfish Control	<p>Ms Parry: Senator McLucas, I confirmed with the executive officer of AMPTO over lunchtime today that in fact there are two vessels. The vessel Hero is currently doing COTS control; the vessel Venus is doing the surveillance work. They are targeting the higher value tourism sites off the coast of Cairns. Currently, there are 12 crew doing control on the Hero. AMPTO is currently running five crew doing surveillance. That is a snapshot as of today. Some of those crew numbers may shift according to where the pressures emerge, and that is a decision for AMPTO. We also have a table, which I am getting printed off now, that we will table for the committee, which breaks down the COTS funding per year and the number of COTS culled per year, as well as the total investment in R&D, both in control and in R&D. The total Australian government investment in COTS control and in R&D is \$17.5 million from 2012, and I will have that full breakdown for you. I would also like to point out that, as you are aware, the government is investing significantly in COTS prevention through water quality control in the catchment. So the Australian government has taken quite a holistic approach to COTS in prevention, control, surveillance and R&D.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. Did AMPTO indicate when the Venus started its surveillance activity?</p> <p>Ms Parry: For surveillance, they did not indicate when it had started, so I do not have the starting dates. There are 90 days of dedicated surveillance undertaken over the first three months of the program, but the field schedules</p>	41	SQ15-000610
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				<p>are decided by the delivery partner, obviously, on the ground. I do not have that information but I can get that for you, if you like.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: For surveillance, did you say 30 days? I did not catch that figure.</p> <p>Ms Parry: I am sorry; 90 days of dedicated surveillance and 24 voyages of 10 days scheduled for control.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Ninety days over what period of time?</p> <p>Ms Parry: Field schedules are developed annually.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: So that is 90 days per year.</p> <p>Ms Parry: Within the first three months of the program I have here. But again, I would need to clarify with AMPTO how they break that down. I do not have that level of specificity; that tends to be up to the delivery partner.</p> <p>Senator McLUCAS: Thank you very much; I really appreciate that.</p>		
161	GBRMPA	Waters	Port Alma	<p>Has GBRMPA had any involvement in any federal approval process to authorise Port Alma to be used as a live export facility? Did you provide any formal comment on, or had any involvement whatsoever in, the regulatory process?</p>	42	SQ15-000582
162	GBRMPA	Waters	Marine Monitoring System	<p>Senator WATERS: Can you take on notice the changes you have made to those marine monitoring systems and provide those for me?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Yes.</p>	44	SQ15-000584

163	GBRMPA	Waters	Water Law Changes	<p>Senator WATERS: You say you are much more comfortable, and yet they are retaining the statutory right to water for mining companies who now will not need to seek a water licence. How are you comfortable with that?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: Our comfort comes to a large degree from the modelling that has now been conducted, which identifies the risks associated with the take of that water and the requirements for assessments of the impact of that water.Senator WATERS: But there will not be an assessment required. That is the point.</p> <p>Mr Elliot: There will not be a requirement for an assessment to inform the take of the water.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Indeed.</p> <p>Mr Elliot: But I believe there is now an assessment requirement of the impacts that can then help guide the volumes involved. I would have to take it on notice to give you more detail.</p>	45	SQ15-000585
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164	GBRMPA	Waters	4 year project plan	<p>Senator WATERS: In relation to the recent ANAO audit on permit assessments, which demonstrated that there was some room for improvement in the authority's permit conditions compliance area, can you give me an update on the steps that you are taking to address those recommendations?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: I will ask Mr Elliot to take us through those.</p> <p>Mr Elliot: The actions that have been undertaken so far include: we have developed a four-year project plan to address both the recommendations in the ANAO report plus the actions that were in the Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment program report, which also had some actions that related to our permission system.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Sorry, could you just speak up a little?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: Yes. What I said was that we have developed a project which is a multiyear, four-year, project and that project plan is already in place. It includes both addressing the ANAO recommendations plus the recommendations or commitments that were in the Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment program report, some of which related to our permission system as well.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Is that project plan available publicly?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: The project plan is not available publicly, but we can provide it if you would like.</p>	35-36	SQ15-000568
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165	GBRMPA	Waters	Compliance Monitoring	<p>Senator WATERS: Okay. What resources are you dedicating to ensuring that they are not, in fact, using the pipeline?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: We do not have any dedicated resources to any one particular permittee, so it would form part of our compliance program either through our field management program or through our permissions compliance program. Of course, some of that compliance we do jointly with Queensland because it is a joint permit with Queensland for that pipe.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Do I understand that to mean that you do not have anyone checking and watching, but you hope that the Queensland government does?</p> <p>Mr Elliot: I would have to get back to you as to what specific compliance monitoring has or has not been undertaken recently.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I will look forward to that detail. Do you have something to add, Dr Reichelt?</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Yes. Those big ponds are at a relatively low level and we would regard it as a low risk that that might be happening compared with three years ago.</p>	41-42	SQ15-000611
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166	GBRMPA	Waters	Ethanol Mandate	<p>Senator WATERS: Yes, thank you, if you would not mind, because I am a bit perplexed as to why you are comfortable with that. I look forward to that. My final question is about the two per cent ethanol mandate, and I understand the bill has now been introduced. Given that that might see an increase in sugarcane production, has there been any input of GBRMPA into that bill as regards either the pesticide and fertiliser application or even land clearing, the impacts associated with that expanded industry, that could affect the reef? What role have you played in the development of those laws?</p> <p>Senator Birmingham: Dr Reichelt might care to comment on the overall involvement, as he touched on in numerous ways, in relation to runoff and management around those issues and, indeed, whether GBRMPA has been consulted on particular proposals that may exist. I think to join the dots through, an ethanol mandate to specifics at this stage might be a bit of a leap, but I am very happy for him to give as much information as he reasonably can.</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: Thank you, minister. No, we have not done a specific study of any likely impact of a policy shift in that fuel issue. We retain our strong interest in the building of the resilience of the catchment, improving the water quality. Our focus would be on sustainable low impact practices generally as opposed to how an energy policy or an ethanol target might influence the production scales. We would be more interested in the levels of nitrogen coming off the sugar than how the sugar was then used.</p>	45-46	SQ15-000587
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				<p>Senator WATERS: If you can take on notice—clearly, it has a huge implication for the reef—what your proposed plans to have input into that process are. I would have thought there are a multitude of programs, including reef rescue, where you are working with landholders to try to improve farming methods and—</p> <p>Dr Reichelt: That is what I was referring to. That is where we will exert our influence in terms of us strongly wanting to pursue any avenue and encourage any better practices that will reduce what we call nitrogen loss as opposed to runoff. Ending up as fertiliser in the ocean is a bad thing.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you can take on notice all of the details of how you are engaging in that particular issue. Thank you, chair.</p>		
167	GBRMPA	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - Breeding	1. When is the prime breeding time for Crown of Thorns starfish and how far can they spread during breeding?	Written	SQ15-000638
168	GBRMPA	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - spread	1. What is the current spread of Crown of Thorns starfish and what proportion of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park do they cover? Please estimate coverage if data is unavailable.	Written	SQ15-000639
169	GBRMPA	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - Infestations	1. Where are the worst infestations of Crown of Thorns starfish currently?	Written	SQ15-000640
170	GBRMPA	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - Threats against tourism	1. Are there any tourism sites in southern parts of the Great Barrier Reef under threat from Crown of Thorns starfish?	Written	SQ15-000642

171	GBRMPA/ 1.1 BCD	McLucas	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish - control measures	<p>1. With control of Crown of Thorns starfish concentrated on high value tourism sites near Cairns, what control measures are in place for other parts of the Great Barrier Reef?</p> <p>a. Who is undertaking control measures on other parts of the Great Barrier Reef (if this is occurring)?</p> <p>b. Are these control measures (if any) funded by the Department? If so, how much funding is allocated?</p>	Written	SQ15- 000641
172	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Marine Parks Additional Consultation Process	In May we had quite a long conversation about the process to date. Are the 80 meetings that have been held subsequent to that discussion?	56	SQ15- 000510
173	Director of National Parks	Siewert	CMR review cost and proposed cost of new management plan process	<p>1. In terms of the additional cost for the next round, we had some discussion during the last estimates and you gave me a series of answers. Has there been additional money spent—there must have been by now—over the \$1.9 million that had been spent to date?</p> <p>2. How much has been spent and whether than has added anything to the additional budgeted line item that you had?</p> <p>3. Will that add anything to the overall cost of the new management process, which is, when you answered my previous question \$5.3 million?</p>	58	SQ15- 000511

174	Director of National Parks	Back	Kakadu Threatened Species Strategy - Feral Animal Control Program	<p>Senator BACK: Thank you, Chair. I understand the government allocated \$750,000 for protection of threatened species as part of the Kakadu strategy. Can you give the committee an understanding of the implementation of that program, what funds have been expended and what funds are still to be expended on what projects?</p> <p>Ms Barnes: Certainly. About last November, Senator Birmingham released the Kakadu threatened species strategy. It was the culmination of a lot of research projects undertaken by the National Environmental Research Program, which basically said that we needed to modify some of the management techniques in Kakadu to help protect small species mammals, mainly around the control of pests and weeds and also fire. With the announcement of the plan, there was money set aside for additional work in Kakadu. I am pleased to say that we have totally reoriented, based on the strategy. We have been looking at the structures in Kakadu and the skills and capabilities of our teams in Kakadu. We have realigned the team in Kakadu and we have new specialist positions in place. The fruits of those new positions and the strategy are starting to show in that we have just had two big feral animal control programs. I do not have the numbers with me but I can provide those to you on notice.</p>	59	SQ15-000562
175	Director of National Parks	Siewert	Marine Reserves	<p>Mr Clark: As you would be aware, there is a range of zones within reserves that are currently under active management. Many of those zones allow oil and gas</p>	58-59	SQ15-000560

			<p>activities. There are frequently activities, whether it is seismic work or other preparatory work for oil and gas activities, occurring at various times within reserves. The approval process for that is through NOPSEMA, and questions in relation to that should be directed to them. Within those zones, as Ms Barnes said, those activities are excluded from highly protected areas but are allowed within multiple use areas within the network. With respect to those areas that are currently under the review, as we talked about before, that are under a transitional management arrangement, they are not subject to any zoning restrictions at present and obviously will not be until new management plans are developed and come into force.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Has there been any activity in those areas?</p> <p>Mr Clark: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: There has been since last estimates?</p> <p>Mr Clark: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you provide the detail of that, please?</p> <p>Mr Clark: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to do that now or on notice?</p> <p>Mr Clark: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Could you provide what activity and in which reserves—what activity and when? That would be appreciated; thank you.</p>		
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176	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - Impact on Plants and Animals	What impact did the fire have on plants and animals, especially small or threatened species?	Written	SQ15-000547
177	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - Impact on Sites of Significance	What impact did the fire have on sites of significance to Mirarr traditional owners and other Aboriginal people in the region?	Written	SQ15-000548
178	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - NLC Media Statement	In the Northern Land Council's media statement on Friday, 9 October it states that "this is the second year in a row that ERA has created havoc in Kakadu with its damaging fire management practices..." and that "last year traditional owners were promised new protocols and practices to prevent a recurrence." What steps were taken to improve communications and prevent a recurrence?	Written	SQ15-000552
179	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - ERA's Fire Management Plan	1. How would you describe ERA's fire management practices? 2. Given that ERA has engaged in poor fire management practices, what concerns do you have that ERA has the capacity to meet its obligations to rehabilitate the Ranger Uranium Mine once it ceases operations?	Written	SQ15-000553
180	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - Helicopter availability	1. I understand that the helicopter available to Parks to fight the fire was very limited in its capacity, in that it could only hold a limited amount of water for aerial bombardment of the fire and only for some two to three minutes. Can you confirm that? 2. Given the limitations of this single helicopter at Park's disposal, why didn't Parks seek other firefighting assets from interstate rather than	Written	SQ15-000554

				let this fire burn through Kakadu for over a week?		
181	Director of National Parks	Peris	Kakadu National Park Fire - Purchase of new key Firefighting Assets	Given the recurrence of such intense late dry season fires and the outstanding environmental and cultural values for which Kakadu is rightly listed on the World Heritage List, will the Australian Government consider purchasing new key firefighting assets to make available to the Park in future years? I am thinking of a larger and more effective helicopter.	Written	SQ15-000555
182	1.5 ESD	Canavan	Environmental Organisations Deductible Gift Register	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Given that you are one of the departments in charge of the deductible gift register for environmental organisations, is it your understanding that those donations would receive a tax deduction?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I cannot answer that. It is not really an area of the department that I look after.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Okay; I understand that.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: I realise we have only 1.5, so I am happy for you talk to that, Dr de Brouwer.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We can come back on that one on notice. I think the sense is that the legislation is very broad—the requirements, the purposes are very broad—under the act.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: And when you do take that on notice, I would refer you—and maybe I will send you the relevant link—to the Australian Conservation Foundation's website, where it says that all donations to the Australian Conservation Foundation over \$2 are tax deductible. From that I am presuming that these particular donations for which they are asking for this</p>	6 13/11/2015	SQ15-000652

				<p>legal action are also tax deductible. But if you have other information I would be interested in that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON: You will take all that on notice.</p> <p>Dr de Brouwer: We will. I assume that what you are saying is right, Senator Canavan, but we will come back to you on notice.</p>		
183	1.5ESD	Waters	Carmichael Coal Mine Approval	<p>Senator WATERS: I have a number of questions and I have in front of me the statement of reasons to which you are referring, so that is good. Was the information about this Zambian incident before the department or the minister when the Carmichael Mine was approved?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: No.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Did you ask Adani for this information?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We asked for the environmental history of the executive officers in both Adani Mining Ltd and also its three parent companies, covering 10 years.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Why was this information not provided then?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: That is what we are seeking clarification from Adani on.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: You said you have sought clarification. Do you have a copy of that letter that you could table that outlines the parameters of your request?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: I do not have that with me.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could you please provide that to us at your earliest convenience.</p> <p>Senator Sinodinos: Do you need to get the permission of</p>	1013/11/2015	SQ15-000653

				<p>the company to table the letter?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I think we would need to take it on advice.</p>		
184	1.5 ESD	Waters	Adani Executive Environmental History	<p>Senator CANAVAN: I just wanted to get that clarification. I just googled Jeyakumar Janakaraj. On his LinkedIn account it says he was CEO of that company for four years, starting in October 2008, which, just for the record, is after this environmental incident. He is hardly hiding it under a bushel. Did you view his LinkedIn account at all? Is that something you would do?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The original material provided by Adani noted his role with that company at that time.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Right.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Can you say that again?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: The material provided by Adani in the environmental history noted his role as CEO of that company at that time.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: What date was that provided?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We will have to take that on notice. I am not sure.</p>	13-14 13/11/2015	SQ15- 000654
185	1.5 ESD	Ludlam	Perth Freight Link	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you tell us what time on the 21st you advised the minister that you had taken a decision?</p> <p>Mr Edwards: No, I would have to take that on notice.</p>	19 13/11/2015	SQ15- 000655

186	1.5ESD	Ludlam	Roe Highway Extension	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Can you break that down into plain English, Mr Edwards, since you were in fact the decision maker? How do you find it environmentally acceptable to flatten more than 90 hectares of banksia woodland for a four-lane freight freeway through a wetland?</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Ludlam, we have another two minutes for the department—</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I am asking for a plain English interpretation—</p> <p>CHAIR: Between you and Senator Waters you have had your time allocation. Do you have any other direct questions on this?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: That was a pretty direct question.</p> <p>CHAIR: Would you consider putting other questions on notice?</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: I will do that.</p>	20-2113/11/2015	SQ15-000656
187	1.5 ESD	Canavan	Adani Approval Process	<p>Senator CANAVAN: On notice, could I get the original set of questions you asked Adani. I do not need the responses. I am not asking for anything confidential, just the questions you asked Adani. And for comparative purposes, could I have the questions you would have asked Rio Tinto in the case of South of Embley mine, and BHP in the case of Olympic Dam. I may put some others on notice as well.</p>	22 13/11/2015	SQ15-000657

188	CEFC	Singh	Project Breakdown	<p>Senator SINGH: Three years. Last year was an incredibly difficult year, then, no doubt due to the uncertainty created for the Renewable Energy Target by the then Abbott government. Can you provide a breakdown by technology of what types of projects were funded—how many solar, how many wind and so on?</p> <p>Mr Yates: I can give you an idea of what we did last year. There is a vehicle that has been set up with EG Group, which is to fund the refurbishment of B and C class offices. We obviously find that people are not renovating commercial buildings; they are leaving them in a pretty ordinary state. So we have set up a fund to buy those offices and upgrade them. That is \$125 million. We then have a program with National Australia Bank, and that program is to deliver an energy bonus program, which enables people or small businesses all around Australia, through a website which is run by National Australia Bank, to select better equipment, and if they select appropriate equipment that makes them more efficient and more productive then they can obtain an interest rate saving. You may have seen placards around with Origin talking about fresh solar. We fund Origin to try to roll out solar programs on a no-money-down basis around Australia. We launched the first climate bond; we underwrote that with National Australia Bank.</p> <p>Senator BACK: When you say 'no money down', no money down by whom?</p> <p>Mr Yates: In other words, you contract for the solar to be put on your house with Origin, which is the retailer.</p>	2413/11/2015	SQ15-000658
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				<p>Senator BACK: So it is the owner of the dwelling who puts no money down.</p> <p>Mr Yates: Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Who puts the money down?</p> <p>Mr Yates: Origin actually funds the installation of the system on the house, which is paid back over time through the electricity bills.</p> <p>Senator BACK: And where do you come into it?</p> <p>Mr Yates: We have provided a long-term financing facility to Origin.</p> <p>Senator BACK: And they then repay you?</p> <p>Mr Yates: They repay us.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Interest rates?</p> <p>Mr Yates: Interest rates are the commercial rates.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: Consistent with Origin's borrowing levels.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Thanks. Senator Singh, my apologies.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: That is all right.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: I would not mind clarifying that. While Origin are a good credit—we quite like to have some good credits, or mostly good credits, in our portfolio—what they cannot get access to is easy 10-year amortising money in the structure in these small tranches. So the sort of money that we can make available to them, although it is commercially priced, can exactly fit into those kinds of arrangements for their customers.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Perhaps you could table—</p> <p>Mr Yates: I am happy to table all of that.</p>		
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189	CEFC	Urquhart	Investment breakdown	<p>Senator URQUHART: Sorry, I know it does not matter, in terms of your investment. My question was: do you only provide finance to Australian companies? I think the answer would be 'no', if I understand what you are saying.</p> <p>Mr Yates: Correct.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What percentage of companies are Australian?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: We will take that on notice, but I would be surprised if it was not 90 per cent or something. I do not know, but it is true—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BACK: If you could take it on notice in terms of dollars, also, not just numbers of companies, please.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: Yes; certainly.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it is a percentage of companies. It is also what countries the companies are from.</p>	26	SQ15-000659
190	CEFC	Urquhart	Investment breakdown - Map	<p>Senator URQUHART: I understand, exactly, what you are saying. It is a bit like multinational food companies that may, in fact, have a manufacturing plant in Australia but they are not actually an Australian company. It is that sort of information.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: We will try to give you a map of some of those projects as well. We think of the ownership as Australian because the project might be in Australia. But it could have foreign participants.</p>	26 13/11/2015	SQ15-000660

191	CEFC	Back	Carnegie Wave Energy Program	<p>Senator BACK: I do not want to take time away from Senator Waters, but I have two other quick questions. Carnegie Wave Energy: you are contributors to Carnegie's programs. I think there are still new and emerging—</p> <p>Mr Yates: Yes, we are a lender to Carnegie, and that is a good example of financial innovation. In that transaction, we lent to Carnegie, secured against their future receivables under the R&D credit arrangement. As you know, the R&D credit arrangement is a receivable from the federal government. We structured a new financing arrangement where we would lend against a federal government receivable. We think that is a very sensible financing arrangement, because we think it is low—</p> <p>Senator BACK: It is a very secure one—that's for sure.</p> <p>Mr Yates: Yes. I am very glad to say that I think you are going to find many other commercial banks now adopting that as a funding tool, which makes absolute economic sense. If we want people to raise the money to undertake R&D then it makes sense that if they can borrow the money upfront, apply that money and then receive it back from the government, having done that, as they are entitled to under the R&D concession, we will be able to motivate people to activate their projects faster.</p> <p>Senator BACK: And guarantee your risk.</p> <p>CHAIR: Just on that: can you provide on notice some more information about that funding model?</p> <p>Mr Yates: Sure. Delighted.</p>	30-3113/11/2015	SQ15-000661
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192	CEFC	Waters	CEFC Mandate	<p>Senator WATERS: Great. Let's hope that they take your advice on board. I think the draft criteria have been released recently. You talked earlier about the investment mandate. You said that the March 2015 one is still on foot. When will the revised mandate be issued?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: That is in the hands of the government.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Does the cabinet secretary have anything to add on that?</p> <p>Senator Sinodinos: No, I do not.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Has there been progress made in the negotiations?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: The process is always that we receive a draft investment mandate, we respond, it comes back and it goes fourth. We have not started that process. We have not received a draft investment mandate since we had the formal investment mandate—</p> <p>Senator WATERS: In March?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: We had a draft under the previous responsible minister.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Indeed. I read it with horror.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: That did not progress because of the interchange about the workability of it.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: If you could provide on notice any information that you have in relation to the workability which, as you say, was lacking in that draft, I would be very interested. Thank you.</p>	32-3313/11/2015	SQ15-000662
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193	CEFC	Waters	Rooftop Solar	<p>Senator WATERS: ...There were some great questions earlier about the model of financing for rooftop solar that I am likewise interested in. I think it is a fantastic investment model. I understand the US is using it. You were saying that it is a model you have employed with Origin. Is it just with Origin? Are any other customers interested in that particular financing model? What is the take-up so far? How many households have utilised that funding option?</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: I will give initial comment and Oliver can add to it. We have four different financing models and they are all very different. Some of them have, as Oliver said, no up-front payment by the customer, because that is made by, in this case, Origin and then they pay it back over their fixed price electricity bill over time. Others have a different financing model in that there might be some part payment up-front. It is interesting how the four are very different. We have left it to the marketplace to choose between those four and offered the same financing arrangements, depending on the credit, to each of them.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Waters and Ms Broadbent, it is now 11 o'clock.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Could Ms Broadbent just finish that last point?</p> <p>CHAIR: You can finish the last question and put the other questions on notice because we do have to conclude.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you.</p> <p>Ms Broadbent: I will ask Oliver about the drawdown</p>	33 13/11/2015	SQ15-000663
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				<p>under those facilities.</p> <p>Mr Yates: I will take it on notice, if that is okay. I will come back to you.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Okay. I am very interested, so give me lots of info. Thank you.</p>		
194	1.5 ESD	Waters	Shenhua - statement of reasons	<p>Mr Knudson: The statement of reasons does not go to that point. It does talk about what we found in our assessment of the environmental history of the proponent. Dr Banks can outline what we found in that assessment, which is included in the statement of reasons.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: I have read that, so thank you for the offer, but given the shortness of time I am more interested in why the approach was different in the two instances.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Again, every assessment is done individually. We take a look at a range of factors when we are conducting our assessments, and I do not have at hand the specific rationale that the assessment would have used for determining what was appropriate in this case. That is something I would have to take on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator WATERS: Thank you for doing so, because I am interested in whether anyone raised the environmental history of Shenhua Group. For example there is evidence of groundwater damage in Inner Mongolia, either by that company or companies within that group of companies, so I am interested in whether that was considered. The</p>	17 13/11/2015	SQ15- 000664

				statement of reasons would infer that it was not, so can you take on notice whether it was, what information was before you and why you considered Adani's environmental history overseas but not Shenhua's environmental history overseas? That is the key that I am trying to get at. Thank you for taking that on notice.		
195	1.5 ESD	Ludlam	Research for the Impacts on the Black Cockatoos	<p>Senator LUDLAM: I will run the same page on that. Unless you have it right in front of you, could you on notice list the research for the impacts on the black cockatoos? That is a national environmental issue, one of your triggers. I would like a list of the research and reports used to determine the impacts on black cockatoos of this project in direct response to my letters outlining the flaws in the surveys that were conducted.</p> <p>Mr Knudson: Certainly, Senator.</p>	20 13/11/2015	SQ15-000665
196	1.5 ESD	Ludlam	Offsets Conditional Approval	<p>Senator LUDLAM: Do your approval conditions allow for land clearing to commence before you have identified and secured your offsets?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: We do have that situation occur on occasion.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM: On this occasion?</p> <p>Mr Knudson: On this occasion I am not sure that we have the information at hand and so we would have to come back on notice on that as to what the specific requirement and the condition set were.</p>	20 13/11/2015	SQ15-000676