

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: NWC **Question No:** 39  
**Broad Topic:** 2011 biennial assessment of  
the National Water Initiative  
**Proof Hansard Page and Date** 49 (22/2/11)  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Xenophon asked:**

Senator XENOPHON—I have a couple of questions for the commission. Could the commission outline what public consultation process took place as a result of the 2011 biennial assessment of the National Water Initiative, how widely available was the discussion paper and what was the level of community consultation?

Mr Cameron—The commission issued a discussion paper, as you noted, in, as I think it was, September 2010 and invited submissions, requesting those to be provided to the commission by 8 November.

Senator XENOPHON—How was that done? How widely was that disseminated?

Mr Cameron—It was put on our website and it was also distributed through our stakeholder mailing list and—

Senator XENOPHON—No ads in the paper or anything?

Mr Cameron—There were advertisements in the major papers as well.

Senator XENOPHON—On notice perhaps: what was the level of submissions that you got?

Mr Cameron—My understanding is that we have currently received between 36 and 40 submissions, but we are happily accepting late submissions to the process.

Senator XENOPHON—In terms of community groups and individuals that made submissions as compared to businesses or professional lobby groups, were there many submissions from individuals?

Mr Cameron—There were a number of submissions from individuals, but I would have to take on notice the details of the numbers of them.

...

Senator XENOPHON—On notice, because I think Senator Joyce has some questions, can you give details about how the assessment was advertised and promoted? If you could provide some details on notice, that would be terrific.

Mr Cameron—Yes.

**Answer:**

Number of submissions received

As at 22 February 2011, the Commission had received 38 submissions relating to the 2011 Biennial Assessment of the National Water Initiative.

Composition of submissions received

Of the 38 submissions received by the Commission, 5 were received from individual citizens and 4 were received from community groups.

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Advertising and Promotion Details

The Commission prepared a discussion paper in September 2010. This was distributed with a covering letter to more than 130 key water stakeholders, inviting them to make a submission. In addition, the Commission advertised for public submissions in *The Australian* newspaper on 18 September 2010 and promoted participation on its website and its *Distilled* newsletter, which is sent to more than 3000 subscribers.

Submissions were due by 26 November 2010. All submissions received before and since that date have been considered, published on the Commissions website and incorporated into the Commission's deliberations.

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Additional Estimates, February 2011

**Program: Division or Agency:** 4: NWC

**Question No:** 40

**Broad Topic:** Biennial report

**Proof Hansard Page and Date** Written  
**or Written Question:**

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

When is the Commission's Biennial report due?

**Answer:**

The Commission is working to complete the current biennial assessment by mid 2011.