

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

Question No: 16
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division
Topic: Red tape reduction
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 04 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Please detail what structures, officials, offices, units, taskforce or other processes has the department dedicated to meeting the government's red tape reduction targets?
 - a) What is the progress of that red tape reduction target
2. How many officers have been placed in those units and at what level?
3. How have they been recruited?
4. What process was used for their appointment?
5. What is the total cost of this unit?
6. Do members of the unit have access to cabinet documents?
7. Please list the security classification and date the classification was issued for each officer, broken down by APS or SES level, in the red tape reduction unit or similar body.
8. What is the formal name given to this unit/taskforce/team/workgroup or agency within the department?

Answer:

A dedicated Environment Portfolio Deregulation Unit has been established within the Department's Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division. Resourcing for the unit, including staffing levels and security classifications, will vary from time to time depending on the volume and nature of the material the unit is required to action. Officers within the Deregulation Unit have been redeployed from other areas of the Department.

The Department is on track to implement the Government's deregulation agenda. The first biannual Repeal Day included measures from the Department in the Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2014) Bill included three measures from the environment portfolio. These measures focus on streamlining redundant processes and simplifying regulations. Repeal Day also included the repeal of over 850 spent or redundant legislative instruments that no longer have effect or are no longer required. In addition, an audit of all environment regulation is underway, to assess and quantify the regulatory cost to business, individuals and community organisations.