

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

**Question No:** 39  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 5  
**Programme:** 5.2  
**Topic:** Approvals under the EPBC Act  
**Hansard Page:** 91  
**Question Date:** 24 February 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Ruston asked:**

Senator RUSTON: So there is a significant reduction. How many approvals have you made under the EPBC Act since September 2013?

Mr Knudson: I do not have those figures at hand, unfortunately.

Senator RUSTON: That is okay. I would be interested to know the number of projects and the value of those projects—I understand if you do not want to give me individual values—and also the number of projects that have progressed under the water trigger and similarly the value of those projects.

**Answer:**

Since the 18 September 2013 to 19 March 2014, 168 referral decisions and 48 final approval decisions have been made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

The 48 approval decisions represent greater than \$450 billion of economic value. Of these 48 approval decisions, 4 projects have had the water trigger applied, with an estimated total commercial value of greater than \$30 billion.

In total there have been 60 projects that the water trigger has been applied to under the EPBC Act, and as listed above, four have already received an approval decision.