

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology & the Arts

Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Environment Australia

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 34

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: National Pollutant Inventory

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA Page 41

Senator Bolkus asked:

Do you know the value of the work involved in preparing handbooks under the National Pollutant Inventory?

Answer:

Between 1996/97 and 2000/01 a total of \$1,313,633 million was spent on preparation of 98 handbooks on facility emissions and aggregated emissions data by private consultants, industry and several State and Territory environment protection agencies.

Expenditure on emission handbooks

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	TOTAL
\$200,000	\$175,000	\$456,000	\$469,993	\$12,861	\$1,313,633

Outcome 1,

Question: 35

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: National Pollutant Inventory

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA Page 41

Senator Bolkus asked:

Please provide the precise figures on staffing levels for the NPI over the past 5 years.

Answer:

The average staffing levels over the past five years are as follows:

1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
4	8	8	8	5.1

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Outcome 1,

Question: 36

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: National Pollutant Inventory

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA Page 42

Senator Bolkus asked:

Who conducted the NPI review? Have you got the costing of it?

Answer:

The review was conducted by Professor Ian Rae and cost \$30,800.

Outcome 1,

Question: 37

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: Building Environmental Rating System project in relation to SEDA

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA 60

Senator Bolkus asked:

When were tenders sought for the development of a rating scheme for commercial buildings? What was the budget for the project?

Answer:

Tenders were sought for the development of a rating scheme for residential, commercial and industrial buildings. The *open tender* was advertised on 9 December 2000 with a closing date of 30 January 2001. The budget for the project has not been finalised, pending the completion of the tender assessment period.

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Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 38

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: Building Environmental Rating System project in relation to SEDA

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA Page 63

Senator Bolkus asked:

Can we get copies of the Terms of Reference for the project?

Answer:

The terms of reference for the project are attached.

The building industry was consulted widely about the scope for the project and has endorsed it. Letters of support were received from the Australian Council of Building Design Professions (which represents seven professional building design organisations including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Institution of Engineers, Australia) and the Housing Industry Association. The Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Housing Industry Association, the Property Council of Australia, Master Builders Australia, and the Australian Building Energy Council have volunteered to work with Environment Australia on the project steering committee.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Environment Australia

Additional Estimates 2000-2001, (21/02/01)

Outcome 1,

Question: 38a

Division: Environment Quality Division

Topic: Building Environmental Rating System project in relation to SEDA

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: ECITA Page 61

Senator Bolkus asked:

Could the existing (SEDA) Scheme be extended to a national scheme?

Answer:

The Building Environmental Rating System project aims to develop a scheme for the comprehensive environmental assessment of buildings. Although comprehensive schemes do exist in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and a number of other countries, Australia currently has no such system. The project will draw extensively upon domestic energy rating schemes such as SEDA's commercial building greenhouse rating tool and the comprehensive international systems to develop an appropriate Australian system. The Department is working with organisations such as SEDA to ensure that existing work is not duplicated. In addition, SEDA was invited to tender for the project.

The first stage will fully explore the potential for using existing rating schemes as the basis for a comprehensive rating system including SEDA's commercial building greenhouse rating tool. SEDA's scheme will be evaluated for its rigour and effectiveness in dealing with commercial buildings and to see whether the same methodology is also appropriate for residential and industrial buildings.