

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 922 - 926

Topic: Efficiency Dividend #2 (ABS)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

922. How will the efficiency dividend applied in the 2011-12 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook be implemented in your agency/department?
923. What percentage of your budget must be cut?
924. Will any staff position be cut to meet the efficiency dividend?
925. If yes, provide details of where the positions are located, the classification, whether the position is ongoing or not.
926. Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend.

Answer:

922. There would not be any forced redundancies as a result of this decision and the ABS where possible looks to find savings through a reduction in provision of internal services and reprioritising outputs to fit within available funds.
923. The percentage of the ABS budget that must be cut is as follows:
- The 2.5% one off additional efficiency dividend totals \$23.5m over 3 years to 2014-15 in Expense Appropriation;
 - The 20% additional efficiency dividend totals \$15.1m over 3 years to 2014-15 in Departmental Capital Budget Appropriation.
924. There are no forced staff reductions or involuntary redundancies directly attributable to the increase to the efficiency dividend. The ABS manages its staffing through natural attrition and by utilising non-ongoing staff. Where appropriate voluntary redundancies are offered.
925. Not applicable, please refer to answer to 924.

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926. The ABS does not specifically or separately identify spending reductions or work program cuts in response to efficiency dividends - instead activity is prioritised and outputs delivered as far as possible within the funding available.