

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

2 June 2009

Question: **BR 27**

Topic: Geoscience Australia

Proof Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator Bushby asked:

In March 2009, there was media relating to a proposed cut of up to 150 temporary staff from Geoscience Australia. All temporary staff were based in Canberra and made up about 20% of the agency's workforce.

- a. Has this job cut of 150 temporary staff, or 20% of the agency's workforce, gone ahead?
- b. Have the job cuts adversely affected the agency?
- c. Has it impacted on the agency's work on the UN decision to expand Australia's borders by almost 35%?
- d. Resources Minister Martin Ferguson described the work on the UN decision to expand Australia's borders by almost 35% as a bonanza in mineral wealth. To what extent will cutting jobs slow down work on the project?

Answer:

The article was incorrect and there was never the intention to cut staff numbers by 20%.

- a. Not applicable.
- b. Not applicable.
- c. Not applicable.
- d. Not applicable