

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SR38
Topic: Reviews
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. For this financial year to date:
 - a) How many Reviews are being undertaken?
 - b) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
 - c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
 - d) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
 - e) Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
 - f) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
 - g) What reviews are planned?
 - h) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
2. For 2011-12:
 - a) How many Reviews were undertaken?
 - b) Where all reviews have, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
 - c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
 - d) Did the Government respond to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
 - e) What was the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
 - f) For any ongoing reviews, when will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

The Department

Financial Year to Date

There have been no reviews undertaken this financial year to date.

2011-12 Financial Year

Details of reviews undertaken for the 2011-12 financial year:

Review	Date Concluded	Provided to Government	Government Response	Estimated Cost
EEO Program Full-Cycle Evaluation	The EEO Program Evaluation will be completed in January 2013	No – not yet finalised	Nil	\$354,409
Ethanol Production Grants (EPG) Program Review*	The EPG review concluded in June 2012	Contained within the Department	The Department has responded to the review and the report has been finalised	\$50,000

* The Ethanol Production Grants (EPG) Program Review is planned annually.

Australian Renewable Energy Agency

There were no reviews undertaken this financial year to date. Questions relating to the 2011-12 financial year are no applicable because the Australian Renewable Energy Agency was established on 1 July 2012.

Geoscience Australia

There were no reviews undertaken by Geoscience Australia this financial year to date or during the 2011-12 financial year.

Tourism Australia

There were no reviews undertaken by Tourism Australia this financial year to date or during the 2011-12 financial year

National Offshore Petroleum & Environmental Management Authority

1. For this financial year to date:
 - a) One review has been undertaken, the annual review into Cost Effectiveness under section 62 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Green house Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004*.
 - b) The review is still underway and is due to be concluded in December 2012.
 - c) This review has not been provided to the Government.
 - d) N/A
 - e) N/A
 - f) The estimated cost for the review is \$5,000.
 - g) There are no other planned reviews.
 - h) N/A
2. For the 2011-12 Financial Year:
 - a) Three reviews were undertaken for the 2011-12 financial year.
 - b) Details of the three reviews:

- Operational Effectiveness Review. In accordance with section 659 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*, the Minister must initiate reviews of the operation of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). The reviews are conducted three-yearly and have been conducted by independent panels. The last review was entitled *the Second Triennial Review of the Operational Effectiveness of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority* and was completed on 29 November, 2011.
 - Cost effectiveness review. In accordance with regulations 61,62 & 63 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004, the NOPSEMA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has conducted annual reviews into cost-recovery in relation to the operations of NOPSEMA. These reviews have been conducted in the last quarter of each calendar year. The last review was concluded in November 2011.
 - Cost recovery review. In accordance with regulations 61,62 & 63 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004, the NOPSEMA CEO has conducted periodic reviews into cost-recovery in relation to the funding arrangements NOPSEMA.
- c) The Operational Effectiveness Review has been provided to Government. The report of the independent review panel is provided to the Minister who is required to table the report in each House of the Commonwealth Parliament.
- d) No response timeframe is specified for either of the reviews.
- *Operational Effectiveness Review*. The Government released a response in May 2012 to the Review and the Minister has requested NOPSEMA to commence work on implementing the recommendations accepted by the Government.
 - *Cost effectiveness* review. There is no requirement for a response from Government.
 - *Cost Recovery Review*. There is no requirement for a response from Government
- e) The estimated cost of each review:
- *Operational Effectiveness Review*: Agu Kanstler (contractor) cost = \$60,000
 - *Cost Effectiveness Review*: \$5000
 - *Cost Recovery Review*: \$5000
- f) N/A.

Australian Solar Institute

The Australian Solar Institute has not undertaken any reviews this financial year to date or during the 2011-12 financial year.