

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Environmental Impact –RIS

Senator: Waters

Question reference number: F115

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Has the Office of Better [*sic*] Practice Regulation ever advised a Department that their Regulatory Impact Statement has not addressed the issue of environmental impacts (particularly the environmental cost) of a proposed regulatory reform properly, and that the Department needs to do more work in order to be classified as adequate? If yes, please advise for each situation:

- a) The proposed regulation, and the Department in question
- b) What further work OBPR considered was required in order for the RIS to be adequate
- c) What further work was undertaken by the Department in question to adequately address the environment issue(s) raised.

Answer:

Preparing a regulation impact statement (RIS) commonly involves an iterative process with the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) commenting on aspects of the RIS that need to be improved so that it may be assessed as adequate. It is common for most draft RISs to go through a number of iterations to address shortcomings including in relation to the impact analysis. The level of analysis in the RIS needs to be commensurate with the impacts of the proposal including economic, social and environmental impacts.

The full list of adequate RISs, including those related to environmental issues, is published at ris.finance.gov.au and annually in the Best Practice Regulation Report.