

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 - Domestic Policy
Topic: Staffing of water policy area

Senator: Birmingham

Question reference number: 16

Type of question: Hansard, p 88, 23 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BIRMINGHAM: How many staff do you have dedicated to that area?

Dr Schreier: Over the course of the last year it has varied between three and five, depending upon the workload. In common with other parts of my division we will veer and haul and flex resources as required, depending upon loaded material coming through in terms of briefing or responding to cabinet material. On average it would be about four. If you need more detail about how that variation has been in terms of dedicated staff, I can again take that on notice and provide you with that detail. It has been broadly constant over that time, though.

Answer:

The section within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) that has carriage of water issues is the Environment and Water Section. Within that section, on average, two full-time equivalent staff members have been dedicated to water matters. In addition, the section head has oversight of such matters. These numbers have been stable over the past two and a half years.

PM&C has also provided staff to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for a taskforce currently working on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. This contribution has been between seven and nine full-time equivalent staff since February 2011.