

**Environment and Communications References**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio**

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ24-000078  
**Hearing Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)  
**Topic:** Science projects - personnel  
**Hansard Page:** 15  
**Question Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

Senator BILYK: How many AAD scientists actually travelled for those 43 projects?

Ms Campbell: I'm going to see if Dr Souter can answer that for me.

Dr Souter: Fifteen.

Senator BILYK: Where did everybody else come from? Have you got the make-up of—

Dr Souter: I don't have the specific make-up, but in general terms they came from a wide range of universities across Australia.

Senator BILYK: Can you give me a breakdown of where people came from?

Dr Souter: Absolutely.

Senator BILYK: Was the ship to capacity for the sleeping arrangements and things for those projects? Actually, it might be easier if you can take on notice how many people were on each project of the 43 projects, how many of those were AAD scientists and what the breakdown of the other people was for me.

Dr Souter: Sure.

**Answer:**

Dr Souter's testimony on 24 April 2024 stated that 15 AAD scientists travelled to Antarctica during the 2023-24 season. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water notes that two additional AAD marine scientists were recently deployed, resulting in 17 AAD scientists travelling to Antarctica during the 2023-24 Season.

As noted in IQ23-000285 there is a range of support requested and provided to the 43 science projects within the Australian Antarctic Program – from projects seeking scientist field deployments, projects that are supported by station personnel (only) and projects that are Australia-based either in planning phases or analysing data from remote or historical sources. Of the 43 projects within the program in 2023-24, 16 projects included science field deployments to Antarctica.

Please see **Attached Table 1** for a breakdown by project, number of scientists and institution.

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Project	Title	AAD	UTAS / IMAS	CSIRO	ANU	ANSTO	ARPANSA	NRET	LaTrobe	Lancaster Uni	Monash	CTBTO	QUT	Technical Uni of Denmark	Adelaide Uni	UC San Diego	Canberra Uni	Melbourne Uni	UWA	Total
4503	Reducing Environmental Impacts at Contaminated Sites in Antarctica	7																		7
4506	Observatory of East Antarctic near-surface atmosphere and cryosphere																	1		1
4511	ICECAP - EAGLE	2												2		2				6
4518	Ecological research and monitoring to improve management strategies and conservation outcomes for Antarctic breeding seabirds	4	1												1					6
4547	Long-term monitoring of solid Earth deformation and structure in East Antarctica		1																	1
4591	Sediments and saturation at the ice sheet-bedrock interface zone from passive seismology		1																	1
4619	Macquarie Island Wildlife Monitoring Program: strategic monitoring for applied conservation and management	1	2					1												4
4621	Greenhouse Gases in the Southern Atmosphere			2		1														3
4628	ARC SRIEAS SAEF: Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future - An Evidence-Based, Informatics Approach								1		5		3							9
4629	AAPP: The stability of the Denman Ice Shelf System		2																	2
4630	Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science (ACEAS)		4		2					1					1		2	1	1	12
4636	Sustainable Management of Antarctic Krill and Conservation of the Krill-based Ecosystem	2																		2
4637	Davis Atmospheric Observatory	1																		1
4646	UV monitoring						4					1								5
4479	Tracking the evolution of Southern Ocean variability and change			4																4
4633	BEAUT - Biodiversity of East Antarctica: Underwater and Terrestrial		1																	1
		17	12	6	2	1	4	1	1	1	5	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	65

Table 1. Breakdown of 2023-24 Deployed Science personnel by project and institution.  
Abbreviations: AAD – Australian Antarctic Division, UTAS/IMAS – University of Tasmania/Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, ANU – Australian National University, ANSTO – Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, ARPANSA – Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency, NRET – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, CTBTO – Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation, QUT – Queensland University of Technology, UWA – University of Western Australia

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ24-000083  
**Hearing Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)  
**Topic:** Refuelling costs  
**Hansard Page:** 27  
**Question Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Duniam asked:**

Senator DUNIAM: So you've done all you can on that front. Do you envisage any more trips to Burnie to refuel in the intervening period?

Ms Campbell: We're expecting to refuel for Macquarie Island via road tanker. My recollection is that we don't have any plans to go to Burnie in the next few months. Is that correct?

Ms Bartley: That's correct.

Senator DUNIAM: Since we met, have there been any refuelling stops in Burnie?

Ms Campbell: Since January?

Ms Bartley: The ship would have refuelled in preparation for voyage 3.

Senator DUNIAM: So one trip?

Ms Bartley: One trip.

Senator DUNIAM: Between the road tankering and the refuelling we've just discussed, could I have on notice a cost associated with those, please?

Mr Sullivan: Sure.

Senator DUNIAM: Thank you.

**Answer:**

1. The additional cost of conducting bunkering operations out of Burnie for the 2023-24 operating season was \$891,756 (GST inclusive).
2. The AAD does not incur a direct cost for the hire of road tankers used by its contracted bulk fuel supplier for delivery of fuel to Nuyina in Hobart.

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**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding  
**Question No:** IQ24-000092  
**Hearing Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Division/Agency:** Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)  
**Topic:** Sea anchors  
**Hansard Page:** 13  
**Question Date:** 24 April 2024  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson asked:**

CHAIR: I might come back to the issue of the cranes again. I've been butting in, and Senator Duniam has been very patient. On Macquarie Island, I don't know if an icebreaker has brakes, so to speak, but is it true that the icebreaker couldn't slow down in time when it went to Macquarie Island over six months ago and had to throw in sea anchors and ended up pulling up an anchor from a shipwreck?

Ms Campbell: I'm not aware of that.

CHAIR: Would that be on the boat's log? Would Serco have that?

Ms Campbell: We can find out if that happened.

**Answer:**

- RSV Nuyina has not used any form of anchor to slow down at Macquarie Island.
- RSV Nuyina routinely anchors at Macquarie Island.
- During 2022 resupply of Macquarie Island, when retrieving her own anchor, a portion of chain not belonging to Nuyina was snagged. It was immediately released and returned to the sea floor.
- The occurrence was recorded in the formal Voyage Debrief.
- No damage was sustained by RSV Nuyina during this occurrence.