

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: IQ24-000043
Hearing Date: 29 January 2024
Division/Agency: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: Environmental performance
Question Date: 12 February 2024
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

1. With reference to figures provided in the State of the Environment Report 2021, please provide updated details for environmental performance for:

- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Using the same variables used in Table 6 of the Antarctica chapter¹.

2. With reference to figures provided in the State of the Environment Report 2021, please provide updated details for environmental performance of Antarctic stations by season:

- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

Using the same variables used in Table 5 of the Antarctica chapter².

Answer:

1. Summary of environmental performance of Antarctic shipping and air operations by season

Variable	2020-21*	2021-22	2022-23**
Aircraft fuel (ML)	1.04	1.32	1.47
Ship fuel (ML)	3.75	7.51	14.93
Total fuel (ML)	7.36	11.1	18.99
Total greenhouse gas emissions (t CO2-e)	21,181	37,411	64,395

* 2020-21 Antarctic operations were impacted by COVID-19 leading to reduced shipping and aviation activities.

** The significant increase in fuel consumption in 2022-23 can be attributed to the utilisation of four vessels to support program activities and an extended shipping season.

¹ State of the Environment Report 2021, Antarctica, page 86

² State of the Environment Report 2021, Antarctica, page 84

2. Summary of environmental performance of Antarctic station operations by season

Variable	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total Waste (t)	45	238*	182
Waste to landfill (t)	30	129	143
Waste recycled (t)	15	109	39
Liquid waste treated and disposed of (t)	8	62	14
Water use (ML)	5.34	5.65	5.55
Electricity generated by diesel (TJ)	20.92	19.40	20.67
Operational diesel fuel (ML)	2.57	2.27	2.59

* Waste volumes reflect times of return to Australia. COVID-19 disruptions in 2020-21 deferred some waste return to 2021-22.

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Inquiry: Inquiry into Australian Antarctic Division funding
Question No: IQ24-000045
Hearing Date: 29 January 2024
Division/Agency: Australian Antarctic Division
Topic: Centre for the Antarctic and Southern Oceans funding
Question Date: 12 February 2024
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

Please provide details of funding for the Centre for the Antarctic and Southern Oceans Technology (CAST), across DCCEEW, CSIRO and UTAS, as well as any other sources. How was funding for the CAST affected by the cost savings measure (if at all)?

Answer:

The Centre for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Technology (CAST) is a partnership with in-kind resourcing. There are no binding financial commitments on any of the partners (the Department, CSIRO and the University of Tasmania).