

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES
Australia's Antarctic Territory
(Public)
THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2018
CANBERRA

Question: *You mentioned that you are in a leased building in Kingston. When does that lease expire, roughly?*

Question: *If you could provide the committee with some information in relation to the lease that would be helpful.*

Answer: The Australian Antarctic Division have been on the site in Kingston since 1980/81. Facilities were owned by the Commonwealth until mid-2000, then a private lease since that time. The current lease commenced 1 July 2004 - expiry 30 June 2024. There is a 10 year option available, requiring tenant (AAD) advice no later than six months before Lease Expiry (so before 31 December 2023).

The land area at the Kingston site is 10 hectares. Attached to this document is a spreadsheet of indicative areas of the main buildings and out buildings (along with Macquarie Wharf 2). A map showing public areas is also attached.

Question: *So if the AAD proportion was treated in the same way as the CSIRO, can you take on notice what budgetary impact that would have had since the commencement of this policy?*

Question: *And obviously the difference as well so we can have a look and make some comments on what hasn't been able to be achieved that would have otherwise been able to have been achieved if that had been in place.*

Answer: In the absence of knowing how the CSIRO is funded, the following is a representation of depreciation expense versus Capital Funding over the period in question.

Australian Antarctic Division	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	
Depreciation Expense*	210,866	26,798	29,694	29,817	29,408	36,170	30,171	28,809	30,752
Capital Funding	101,599	17,000	13,000	13,600	13,680	14,239	15,200	12,800	13,075
Variance	109,267	9,798	16,694	16,217	15,728	21,931	14,971	16,009	17,677

*excludes amortisation of asset makegood component

Question: *Is there a missing piece of what's being done that, in relation to our report, particularly looking at maintaining the national interest and serving the scientific program, we can recommend—you might want to take this on notice—to assist in the planning, the delivery or the execution of infrastructure, maintenance and replacement in Antarctica?*

Answer: The Department of the Environment and Energy currently faces an increasing challenge to effectively manage the long term maintenance and capital replacement program for its Antarctic based infrastructure. As detailed in our submission to the Committee, the Department is in the process of developing a strategic asset management and governance framework specifically to address this issue. This body of work will provide guidance, policy and procedures to facilitate the development and delivery of fit-for-purpose maintenance regimes and better planning for future infrastructure. It is expected that putting such a framework in place will require additional resources both in people and in funding.

The Department is also in the process of replacing the research station located on Macquarie Island. This project is being used as a test case to determine how it will approach refurbishment or replacement of future stations in Antarctica. It is envisaged that this process will allow for a transference of knowledge.

Both of these initiatives are part of a larger effort by the Department to address the portfolio wide issue of maintaining and replacing rapidly aging infrastructure in a constrained capital funding environment. This is currently in the initial stages of being worked through with both the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Finance.

Question: *I wonder if you could take on notice to provide the committee with some details of the nine inspections that we've taken in the past. And who might have inspected our stations, too.*

Inspections conducted by Australia in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection

Date	Parties undertaking inspection	Locations inspected	Inspection report
December 2016	Australia	<i>United States:</i> Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station - year round station in AAT - occupied at time of inspection	Australian Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol inspections: December 2016 ATCM 40 IP 30 Inspection report
		<i>Antarctic Specially Managed Area:</i> ASMA No 5 Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station	
January 2011	Australia	<i>Germany:</i> Gondwana Station	Australian Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol inspections: January 2010 and January 2011 ATCM 34 WP 51 ATCM 34 IP 40 Inspection Report
		<i>Russian Federation:</i> Leningradskaya Station - seasonal station in AAT - not occupied at time of inspection Vostok Station: - year round station in AAT - occupied at time of the inspection	
January 2010	Australia	<i>Russian Federation:</i> Druzhnaya-4 Station - seasonal station in AAT - occupied at time of inspection Molodezhnaya Station - seasonal station in AAT - not occupied at time of inspection	Australian Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol inspections: January 2010 and January 2011 ATCM 34 WP 51 ATCM 34 IP 39 Inspection Report
		<i>Japan:</i> Syowa Station	
		<i>Antarctic Specially Protected Area:</i> ASPA No 168 - Mount Harding, Grove Mountains, East Antarctica	
January 2005	Australia	<i>United States:</i> McMurdo Station <i>RV Nathaniel B Palmer</i> (US research ship)	Scott Base and McMurdo Station: Report of an inspection

		<p>New Zealand: Scott Base</p> <p>Antarctic Specially Protected Areas: ASP A 122 – Arrival Heights, Hut Point Peninsula ASP A 158 – Hut Point</p> <p>Historic Sites and Monuments: HSM 18 – Scott’s Discovery Hut HSM 19 – George Vince’s Cross HSM 20 – Observation Hill Cross HSM 54 - Richard Byrd’s Bust HSM 75 – Hut A, Scott Base</p>	<p>under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty and Article 14 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection</p> <p>ATCM 28 WP 16 Inspection report</p>
February-March 2005	Australia, Peru and United Kingdom	<p>Stations</p> <p>Argentina: Brown; Decepcion; Esperanza; Marambio; Petrel; San Martin Brazil: Commandante Ferraz Bulgaria: St Kliment Ohridski Chile: Arturo Prat; Gabriel Gonzalez Videla; Luis Risopatron; Teniente Luis Carvajal Villarroel; Yelco China: Great Wall Czech Republic: Johann Gregor Mendel Ecuador: Pedro Vicente Maldonado Spain: Gabriel de Castilla and Juan Carlos I Republic of Korea: King Sejong Russian Federation: Bellingshausen Ukraine: Akademik Vernadsky United Kingdom: Rothera Uruguay: Ruperto Elichiribehety</p> <p>Ships: Russian Federation: MV Professor Molchanov</p> <p>Historic Sites and Monuments: HSM 55 East Base HSM 61 Port Lockroy HSM 62 Base F Wordie House HSM 63 Base Y HSM 64 Base E</p>	<p>Report of joint inspections under Article VII of the Antarctic Treaty and Article 14 of the Environmental Protocol</p> <p>ATCM 28 WP 32 Inspection Report</p>
1990/91 Antarctic summer	Australia	<p>China: Zhongshan Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - year round station in AAT - occupied at time of inspection 	No electronic version available
1986/87 Antarctic summer	Australia	<p>Russian Federation: Mirny Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - year round station in AAT 	No electronic version available
1985/86 Antarctic summer	Australia	<p>France: Dumont d’Urville</p> <p>Russian Federation: Mirny Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - year round station in AAT 	No electronic version available

1963/64 Antarctic summer	Australia and United Kingdom	<i>United States:</i> McMurdo Station Amundsen Scott South Pole Station - year round station in AAT - occupied at time of inspection Byrd Surface Camp	No electronic version available
		<i>New Zealand:</i> Scott Base	

Inspections of Australian stations in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty

Date	Party undertaking Inspection	Locations inspected	Inspection report
1998/99	Belgium and France	<i>Stations</i> Casey Station; Davis Station; Mawson Station <i>Research and resupply vessel:</i> RSV Aurora Australis <i>Other</i> Former Wilkes Station (operated by the United States and then Australia)	Joint Inspection in Eastern Antarctica conducted in 1999 by Belgium and France under article VII of the Antarctic Treaty ATCM 23 IP 42
1994/95	United States	Davis Station	No electronic version available
1988/89	Russian Federation	Mawson Station	No electronic version available
1982/83	United States	Casey Station, Davis Station; Mawson Station	No electronic version available
1970/71	United States	Casey Station Davis Station	No electronic version available
1966/67	United States	Mawson Station and Wilkes Refuge	No electronic version available

**AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION
GROSS LETTABLE AREA**

Major Buildings Onsite

Building	Level	Gross Lettable Area (m ²)	Total	Total Site	Lab	Other
HURLEY	G	614.0	614.0			
HURLEY	1st	549.4	549.4			
				1163.4		
MAWSON*	G	1183.90 (Original Section)	1183.9			
		535.9 (Newer Section)	535.9			
MAWSON*	1ST	1352.40 (Original Section)	1352.4			
		535.9 (Newer Section)	535.9			
				3608.1		
DAVIS	G	968.3	968.3		308.86	
DAVIS	1ST	1026.7	1026.7		87.3	
				1995		
WAITE	G	388	388			
WAITE	1ST	388	388			
				776		
WILD	G	530	530		490.72	
WILD	1ST	553.8	553.8			
				1083.8		
HARRISSON	G	581.3	581.3		236.16	
HARRISSON	1ST	581.3	581.3			
				1162.6		
HANNAM	G	5936.5	5936.5			5936.5
HANNAM (Mezzanine)	1ST	1407.2	1407.2			1407.2
				7343.7		
			17132.6	17132.6		

Other Leased Premises

Building	Level	Gross Lettable Area (m ²)	Total	Total Site	Lab	Other
Macquarie No. 2	G	3526	3526			
	1ST	109.2	109.2			
				3635.2		
Kettering Boating Facility	G					
			3635.2	3635.2		

AAD Smaller Site Buildings

Flammable Store			44.9			44.9
Hazardous Store			48.6			48.6
Smelly Laboratory			36	36		
Plant Storage Shed			336			336
Paint Spray Booth			85.8			85.8
Optics Laboratory			43.2	43.2		
Cosmic Ray Detection			60.9	60.9		
Corporate house			169			169
Marine Science Facility			788			788
Glaciology Facility			360			360
Cold Room Freezer Facility			142.2			142.2
Low Bake Oven			80			
Wash down Facility			40			
Radiation Container						
		Total	17132.6	19247.2	1263.14	9318.2

Total Site	19247.2
Less Other	9318.2
Less Lab	1263.14
Total Office	8665.86

Antarctic MOUs

Other Party	Instrument	Done	Subject	End
China	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia on Cooperation in the Field of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Affairs. ○ Three additional research MOU or statements fall under the high-level government to government MOU	2014	General	5 years – ongoing commitment to be discussed at this time (2019)
France	Joint statement of strategic partnership between Australia and France. ○ Additional specific MOU/agreements/statements also exist between France and Australia with respect to Antarctic cooperation, fisheries, specific regions, culture.	2012	General	Indefinite
Italy	Arrangement for Scientific Cooperation in relation to Antarctica between Italy and Australia. ○ A further MOU exists in relation to cultural cooperation.	1992	Science	Indefinite
Japan	Statement of Commitment by the National Institute of Polar Research and the Australian Antarctic Division.	2007	Science	Indefinite
Korea	Statement of Commitment to Antarctic Cooperation by Korean Polar Research Institute and Australian Antarctic Division. ○ An additional instrument is in place in relation to cetacean research.	2007	General	Indefinite
New Zealand	Modified Letter of Understanding on Enhanced Collaboration between the Australian Antarctic Division and Antarctica New Zealand	2011	General	Indefinite
Russian Federation	Memorandum of Understanding By the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Australia on Antarctic Cooperation. ○ Additional specific MOU or instruments also exist in relation to research and environmental protection.	2012	General	Indefinite
United Kingdom	United-Kingdom-Australia Co-operation priorities: 2015-2020	2015	General	2015-2020

As at Feb 2018